

## Type of Marriage and Satisfaction in Light of Socio - Economic Demographic Factors in Irbid Governorate - Jordan

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### Abstract

The present study investigates endogamy and exogamy types. This study addresses the socio-economic and demographic factors. The convenient sample consisted of (291) participants from Irbid Governorate (in terms of availability). Frequencies, percentages and multiple regression were used to examine the role of the socio-economic and demographic factors dimensions in explaining the marital satisfaction. The aspects included are social, psychological and economic satisfaction, while the socio-demographic variables included are age, gender, education, income and period of marriage. The findings revealed that social satisfaction was the greatest, followed by psychological and economic satisfaction, respectively. The comparative means revealed that cases of endogamy are more satisfying than cases of exogamy. The multiple regression revealed that all of socio-economic factors dimensions have significant impact on the marital satisfaction among the participants except for gender.

**Key Words:** Jordan, Marriage, Satisfaction, Irbid.

### المخلص

تهدف الدراسة إلى معرفة درجة الرضى عن نمط الزواج سواء، كان داخلياً أو خارجياً؛ بناءً على بعض المتغيرات الديموغرافية، تكونت عينة الدراسة من (٢٩١) فرداً من محافظة إربد اختيروا بمن حضر، واستخدمت الدراسة التكرارات والنسب المئوية ومعامل الانحدار المتعدد للكشف عن دور المتغيرات الديموغرافية في تنبؤ مدى الرضى عن الزواج في ضوء الأبعاد الآتية: البعد الاجتماعي والنفسي والاقتصادي، أما المتغيرات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والديموغرافية فكانت: (العمر، والجنس، ومستوى التعليم، والدخل، وعدد سنوات الزواج)، وتوصلت الدراسة إلى أن الرضى الاجتماعي جاء مرتفعاً، وتبعه النفسي، ثم الاقتصادي، وبين اختبار مقارنة المتوسطات إلى أن نمط الزواج الداخلي كان مرضياً أكثر من نمط الزواج الخارجي، وأشارت نتائج

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تحليل الانحدار المتعدد إلى أن كل المتغيرات الديموغرافية كان لها أثر إيجابي في مدى رضى الزواج باستثناء مُتغير الجنس.  
الكلمات الدالة: الأردن، الزواج، الرضى، إريد.

### **Introduction:**

The marriage as a social institution has been discussed and presented by several famous sociologists, which is starting with those men and women admit to family life. Edward Westermarck defined marriage as the higher or lower solid relationship between man and woman lasting beyond the act of promulgation till after the birth of progeny (Keller, 1971) defined it as a permanent obligation between allowable mates. (Malinowski, 1891) defined marriage as a contract for the production and arisement and education of children (Frazer, 2006).

Sociology has considered the family in several perspectives such as the structural functional theory, this theory dealt with the family as a social institution which has its own social function within the general social structure. So, the main functions of the family are socialization and personality growth. (Horani, 2008) summarized Parson's ideas of family functions: apparent and latent. For example: through the socialization process, the family imposes on its member to be committed to their role expectations such as parents' obey in the beginning and in late stage, member's commitment to social values and rules.

According to (Levy and Monroe, 1950) people get married because of the feeling that being in a family is the only accurate indeed and the only possible way to live. People do not marry because it is their social duty to perpetuate the institution of family or because the religion recommend marriage but because they lived in a family as children and cannot get over the feeling that being in a family is the only appropriate way to live in society (Jones, 2005).

**Marriage** has been part of one's life since the beginning of human evolution. A marriage is a commitment and unity between two people. There are many different types of marriages, but our focus will be on endogamy and exogamy. An endogamy marriage is when you marry someone from the same social level. An exogamy marriage is when you marry outside of a "group" such as religion, social class, etc. In short, Exogamy and endogamy refer to marrying somebody from out

or in one's immediate social group respectively. Endogamy has number of Forms: Tribal endogamy, in which individual cannot marry out of his own tribe or division, Caste endogamy, in which marriage has to be within the ethnicity, Class endogamy, in which marriage can take place between people of only one class or of a particular status and Race endogamy, in which one can marry in the same race. On the contrary, Exogamy marriage is out of the endogamy forms such as out of the tribe, race and social class. As it is well known, the satisfaction as a main target in all kinds of marriages will be affected in these types of marriages significantly by several socio-demographic factors (Leeuwen, 2005 and Wolf, 2004)

In Arab societies, although many thinkers and religious leaders have encouraged exogamy marriage and warned from the endogamy marriage, the endogamy marriage is still dominant for economic reasons (e.g. the family does not prefer its proprieties to go to stranger family) and social reasons(e.g. protecting the family ascription whereby a significant number of families consider themselves as distinguished and they do not like to mix their roots by other roots) (Katatneh and Banawi, 1996).

### **Literature Review:**

There are several articles were made which deal with endogamy and exogamy marriages;(Taybeh et al, 2014) studied in Iran various elements affecting the healthy family such as marital satisfaction on 140 married women employed at educational and medical centers of Golestan University of Medical Sciences. They reported that sexual relationships have an important impact on satisfaction of marital relationship. This study aimed to determine the association of marital satisfaction with sexual satisfaction among sexually active employee women in terms of some socio-demographic factors (educational attainment and age). The findings showed that in marital satisfaction scale, the majority of the participants were very satisfied and none of them were very unsatisfied. In sexual satisfaction scale, most of the participants expressed extremely satisfaction rate and only less than.1% were not satisfied with their sexual relationship. Moreover, the findings indicated that there was a significant association between satisfaction and age. Level of education was associated significantly with the marital satisfaction.

(Hussein and Khatatneh, 2010) concluded that exogamy marriage leaves several problems such as legal, psychological, economic, cultural, educational, family and social problems. Moreover, the age differences was not a problem, because there are a lot of gaps between couples, while like these problems are not found in the endogamy marriage, because these gaps are very narrow.

(Dribe and Lundh, 2010) studied the relationship between partner selection and socioeconomic status (SES) attainment and mobility in Sweden, 1815-1894. Three several aspects of partner selection are studied: age, social origin, and geographical origin. They used individual-data getting information on the SES origin (parental land holding and occupation), age difference as well as place of birth of the married couple. The results reported a strong association between partner selection and SES attainment and mobility. Social differentiation was particularly important, moreover age difference and geographic exogamy was also associated significantly to both SES attainment and mobility.

(Conger et al,2010) in their research they declared that social class or socio-economic status (SES) is related to satisfaction and stability in romantic unions, and this satisfaction is reflected on the quality of parent-child relationships.

(Dribe and Lundh, 2010) in their study tried to connect between exogamy and partnership degeneracy by analyzing individual data for natives and immigrants moving to Sweden after 1968. They studied both officially married and cohabiting unions, from the birth of the first child until the separation. Using event history models, they studied the impact of: first, type of union (endogamous, exogamous with a native, exogamous with another immigrant), second cultural differentiations between the couples (based on origin country specific information on value system and majority religion) on their separation. The main findings were that exogamy increases separation risks. Moreover, the differences between couples in human capital and demographic factors were very significant on their separation.

In a study conducted by (Al-Ghanim, 2006) in Kuwait, on a participants of 7749 married Kuwaiti women between the ages of 16 and 87 years, the sample included approximately 60% of women married to relatives and 40% of women married to non-relatives. The results showed that there is an increase in the number of Kuwaiti women who wanted to marry in the Kuwaiti society rather

than outside the country; due to the availability of many different nationalities in Kuwait which in turn helped the economic openness by increasing the chances of Kuwaiti women to exogamy. Furthermore, the result showed that there is a notable improvement in economic level for Kuwaiti women which helped giving greater margin to the freedom in choosing marriage as well as, a high rate of spinsterhood in Kuwaiti society has increased the possibility of accepting any marriage proposes of any nationality to escape from spinsterhood.

(Ballesteros et al, 2001) in Spain reported that life satisfaction is strongly related to socio-demographic and psychosocial variables. Their purpose of the research was to discover which socio-demographic conditions and psychosocial factors are the most important, and to decide to what extent they contribute to life satisfaction. Subjects were 507 persons aged over 65 years and representative of the Spanish population on the basis of age and gender, were interviewed at home. The results indicated that two socio-demographic factors (income and education) impacted significantly life satisfaction both directly and indirectly.

In a study by (Al-Qadi, 2000) in Suwaylima village, located in Jordan, he tried to compare the prevailing marriage patterns (endogamy and exogamy) in the society of Suwaylima village through surveying 104 families living in the village. The results of the study indicate that endogamy serves propagation and making families, as well as the most prone to exogamy because it helps to acquire new social places compared to endogamy. Whereas exogamy effectively contributes to solve the problem of delayed marriage age and, moreover the researcher has attributed the preference of exogamy is due to openness to neighboring communities, increase of education and economic independence.

(Khatatneh and Banawi, 1996) reported that attitudes among Jordanian students toward endogamy marriage were negative, because it leaves a lot of social problems and no one strengthens social cohesion. Their study also revealed that students are unwilling to conform to parental wishes (marrying close relatives).

satisfaction with leisure activities, and social interactions), were perceived as a health indicators, and they can contribute in explaining of life satisfaction.

(Bener et al, 1996) studied the relationship between socio-demographic factors and consanguineous marriages in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The rate

of consanguineous marriages in the sample was found to be about the half. The socio-demographic factors were: husband's and wife's age, their educational attainment, their occupation, housing conditions and their parental kinship. Consanguinity is more common among women with higher educated husbands than among women with less educated husbands. The founding's report that the frequency of consanguineous marriages significantly increases with higher husband's educational level. The results of occurrence of consanguineous marriages showed that the husband's education and husband's parents' consanguinity status only are significantly associated variables, while there are no effects for other variables: husband's occupation, wife's occupation, housing conditions, husband's parental kinship, wife's parental kinship, and kinship between the spouses and age.

In short, through the results of above studies can be said that the endogamy marriage may achieve more satisfaction than exogamy one, while some studies (in Jordan) indicated that some people refuse the endogamy marriage just as negative reaction toward their parents. Moreover, the results also indicated that SES factors can play an important role in determination of marriage satisfaction, the similarity in SES between couples is positive contributor to increase of their satisfaction, while the differences in their geographical areas and social origins has negatively contributed to their satisfaction.

### **Study's Problem:**

The present study focuses on a very sensitive issue in the society of north Jordan, whereby the majority of citizens are muslims. Like other religions, muslims do not allow relationships outside the context of marriage, so the satisfaction of marriage is necessary, because there is no any substitution to make relationships between male and female, there is no cohabitation, no homosexuality and the single parenthood is very heated.

### **Importance of the study:**

The importance of the present study raised from the desperate need to explore the effect of kind of marriage on shaping the satisfaction among couples in several locations in Irbid Governorate in Jordan. The guiding assumption of this

study is that services may have some effect on the satisfaction of couples in Irbid Governorate but in a different way in each.

**Objectives of the study:**

- 1- 1-Identifying the priorities of marital satisfaction dimensions.
- 2- Levels of satisfaction in both endogenous and exogenous marriage.
- 3- Effect of the socio-demographic factors on marriage satisfaction.

**Questions of the study:**

- 1- What are the levels of satisfaction among the sample's study?
- 2- How do the married people prioritize the following marital satisfaction dimensions: social, psychological and economic aspects?
- 3- Who is more satisfied the endogenous or exogenous married?
- 4- What is the most efficient liner, cause and effect model in predicting the marital satisfaction among Jordanian couples depending on various socio-economic demographic (gender, age, education, place of living, income and period of marriage)?

**Method:**

**The Population and Sample:**

The population of this study consisted of all married couples from several locations in Irbid Governorate, Jordan; their number reached 384010 families (Dept. of Statics, 2018). The characteristics of the general population are as the following: several levels of educational attainment, several levels of age and income, types of marriage (endogamy and exogamy), gender, number of marriage years and place of living. Therefore, the subjects of this study consisted of some married couples in these locations who were chosen in terms of availability (convenient); there were 146 endogenous married and 145 exogamous married subjects who came from the various locations: city (98 subject), village (102 subjects), and camps (91 subjects), while the gender distribution was 132 males (husbands) and 199 females (wives). There was no sampling frame; it consisted of the total population (married subjects) available within these locations in Irbid

Governorate.

The sampling frame is convenient chosen (in terms of availability) as summarized in table1.

**Table.1**  
**Study's sample distribution in terms of location, style of marriage**  
**gender and specialization**

University	Style of Marriage				Total
City	Endogenous		Exogamy		98
	45		43		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
	21	24	21	22	
Villages	Endogenous		Exogamy		102
	55		47		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
	23	32	22	25	
Camps	Endogenous		Exogamy		91
	42		49		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
	20	22	24	25	

#### **The study's variables:**

The independent variables were: kind of marriage (1 for endogamy and 2 for exogamy), gender (1 for male and 2 for female), place of living (1 for city, 2 for village and 3 for camps), while the education, age and Period of marriage variables were measured by the number of years, the income was measured by monthly JDs earning.

The dependent variables were: the satisfaction of married subjects as measured by the questionnaire and the types of the satisfaction which are: social, psychological and economic as they are measured by groups of items for each type. As concluded from the results of factor analysis.



### The Instruments:

To assess the satisfaction of married people on their marriage, the researchers developed the survey instrument which was based upon previous instruments used in this field of research and by the authors. The instrument was a Likert-type scale (1 = *never*, 2 = *rarely*, 3 = *some times*, 4 = *often*, and 5 = *always*). This instrument consisted of 27 items representing 3 domains of satisfaction (social, psychological and economic domains). The questionnaire score range from 27 to 135. Validity of the instrument was confirmed using a panel of ten specialists in the fields of sociology, psychology and special education whom they confirmed the content validity of the scale. Based on the literature and specialists opinion as an indicator of construct validity for the test, 3 dimensions were covered in the instrument. These dimensions were as the following (see table 2)

- (a) Ten items on the social dimension.
- (b) Seven items on the economic dimension.
- (c) Ten items on the psychological dimension.

**Table. 2**  
**Results of factor analysis**

No.	Item	Factor Loading		
		V1	V2	V3
1	There is a difficulty to adapt with the marital life	.71		
2	There is a difficulty to make social relationships	.66		
3	My marriage made problems with my family	.64		
4	I feel shame to eat with my family in law	.59		
5	I have problems with my social stability	.55		
6	I am suffering from daily life problems	.53		
7	The cultural differences between couples produces serious problems	.51		
8	My I scare from spouse leave	.49		
9	I can not understand my spouse thoughts	.46		
10	I cannot make my decisions	.43		

No.	Item	Factor Loading		
		V1	V2	V3
11	The marriage has an important role to keep a family's property		.61	
12	My spouse cannot offer of daily life requirements		.55	
13	I accept any kind of work to help my family		.52	
14	My parents refuse to help me		.50	
15	I will be deprived from my rights in family heritages		.47	
16	My income is not enough to educate my kids		.42	
17	My income is not enough to cover of social obligations		.41	
18	My spouse ignores of my psychological needs			.59
19	The emotional contact is weak between us			.56
20	I feel of emotional coldness			.53
21	I feel anxious from my marriage			.49
22	My marriage cannot achieve of my psychological needs			.47
23	I feel that my marriage is kind of exploitation of my spouse to achieve some own targets			.45
24	I feel that my life is heavy and miserable			.42
25	I feel anxious from bad future to my family			.41
26	I cannot realize wither my succeed marriage or not			.41
27	I feel conquer because of my marriage			.40

Factor	Eigen Value	PCT of Variance	CUM PCT
1. (Social)	12.59	20.01	20.01
2. (Economic)	8.33	13.44	33.45
3. (Psychological)	4.41	8.89	42.35

Reliability was calculated using Cronbach's alpha for the total score which was (.89), and the Cronbach's Alpha were calculated for each dimension in the scale (.91 for social, .88 for economic and .89 for the psychological. These results of validity and reliability considered are enough for this study based on the

scientific norms and criteria (Robinson et al, 1991).

### **The Instructions:**

After the researchers had prepared the names and locations of the subjects, they met the subjects individually and they explained the purpose of the study and asked for their participation in filling out the questionnaires for the study. Instructions for answering the questionnaire items were delivered and subjects were instructed not to write their names on the questionnaires to ensure that their responses were confidential. Questionnaires were completed in about one hour period for each interview and collected by the researchers. Afterwards, the subjects were appreciated for their effort.

### **Results and Discussion:**

The results of this study show individual scores in marital satisfaction test. To ascertain whether the participants were largely, moderate or low satisfied, the raw test results are shown in table 3.

**Table. 3**  
**Frequencies and percentages of marital satisfaction test**

<b>Satisfaction Score</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Less than 2.6	92	31.6	31.6	31.6
2.6-3.3	132	45.3	45.3	76.9
3.3 and above	96	23.1	23.1	100
Total	291	100.00	100.00	

About one third of subjects (31.6%) exhibit a low satisfaction in their marriage, while about 45 % thirds were more satisfied or moderate. The remaining one fourth of subjects (23.1%) held high level of satisfaction. About two thirds of the sample was satisfied, this result is very expected by the researchers, because they have no chances to make any relationship out of their marriage on the basis of Islamic religion, conservative habits and taboos.

To answer the second question about the priority of satisfaction dimensions based on the perception of participants, means and S.D. means were calculated. Findings indicated that social satisfaction dimension (M=4.2) was the highest, followed by psychological dimension (M=3.14), then the economic dimension (M=2.1) was the lowest.

In Irbid like these results are logic and consistent with Jordanian society as a general, which is still tribal and its relationships between people depend upon blood and kinship, while the Psychological needs are coming after social requirements in like these societies. In regard of economic side usually is coming as a last requirement in the family life, because their needs are simple and there is kind of Appreciation for scarifying of personal needs for family or community (Hussein, and Khatatneh, 2010).

To answer the third question of the study, concerns who is more satisfied endogenous or exogenous married? The results of t test indicated that endogenous married couple has more satisfaction about his marriage than exogenous one ( $t=15,33$ ,  $df=290$ ,  $p<_.000$ ).

This result is consistent with most of literature (e.g: Khatatneh and Banawi, 1996), (Dribe and Lundh, 2010), because their background is rational and tribal, which give a priority to blood commitment.

To generalize (fourth question) from the data regarding the socio-demographic factors that predict marital satisfaction is presented in table 4.

**Table. 4**  
**Multiple regression analysis on socio-demographic factors**  
**predicting marital satisfaction**

Socio-Demographic Factors	B	R Square	Multiple R	F Value	P Value
Constant	18.45				
Age	4.21	.32	.568	77.2	.000
Constant1	16.38				
Age	3.12	.43	.657	72.21	.000
Education	5.41				
Constant	15.71				
Age		.49	.447	37.43	.000
Education					
Income					
Constant	9.53				
Age		.54	.41.87	29.22	.000
Education					
Income					
Period of marriage					
Gender					

Table 2 shows that the age was the strongest prediction for the marital satisfaction and it explained 32% of the variance. Next in the predictability – the education could explain 9% of the variance, followed by the income, which explained 6% of the variance. Finally, the period of marriage years explained only 5% of the variance.

To interpret the findings, increased age most strongly predicts the marital satisfaction, at the same time, more education strongly predicts to be more satisfied. Income positively was the third in predicting the marital satisfaction, whereas more number of marriage years variable was the weakest predictor to marital satisfaction. Significantly, the gender shows little resolution in predicting the variance.

In regard the age as the strongest predictor, the result is very consistent with the literature and Irbid Governorate society, because the couples with their advance age are getting mature, going to ignore the problems and they became more able to forgiveness each other,(Dribe and Lundh, 2010).

The education variable came a strong too, in its predictability of the marital satisfaction, this result is very expected and most of studies gave the same result, the educated person is more able to understand and more adaptation to new and strange events, at the same time he has more ability to develop his / her life in terms of occupation, income and so on.

The third predictor is the income, this result is meaningful, because more income is very helper to improve the quality of family life, which facilitates the life and compensate a lot of missed a family requirements (Ballesteros et al, 2001).

Regarding the period of marriage, it was the last significant predictor, at this point the couples with the time are going to be adjusted and habitual zed with their life style and they could understand each other's needs and requirements which is leading to more satisfaction (Khatatneh and Banawi, 1996). Finally gender variable could not predict significantly of satisfaction variance.

### **Research limitations:**

The present findings can be considered as limited and hard to generalize on all regions' in Jordan or all locations in Irbid Governorate, because, the sample of study is very limited and it is not typically random.

### **Recommendations:**

This study may help to establish a significant contribution in offering a background to other studies in this field on Arab societies. Also, these results can clarify the modern trends of marriage satisfaction such as social, psychological and economic satisfaction. The findings suggest that more attention has to be given to the marital services. Moreover, other studies like this one have to be done on other Jordanian Governorates to evaluate their family life services; there is more articles are needed to focus on family life in all aspects.

**Conclusion:**

Most of the sample was satisfied in general, this result is very important, because the subjects have no opportunity to live any relationship out of their marriage, because all of them are Muslims and such relationships (unlegitimized) are prohibited. Moreover, most of the sample preferred the endogamy type of marriage, the reasons of this result is that they are committed to traditional social relationship such as blood relationships and in terms of economic reasons, the endogamy has less cost than exogamy marriage. Finally, age, income and education had a positive effect on the level of satisfaction.

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