



EARLY MARRIAGE FOR FEMALES IN AL-MUTHANNA GOVERNORATE THE CAUSES, AND EFFECTS, STUDY IN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

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| Article history: | Abstract: |
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| Received: October 24 th 2021 | The research aims to reveal the causes leading to early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate, as well as the effects resulting from it. The analytical geographical approach was relied on in studying many developments and variables that accompanied the analysis of the causes and effects of early marriage among females, in addition to paying attention to the quantitative statistical aspects in measuring the rate of marriage. The causes and effects. It was found from the research that there is a discrepancy in the causes of early marriage at the level of administrative units in Muthanna Governorate, where customs and social traditions came with the highest percentage (29.4%) among the reasons for early marriage due to the prevalence of the clan character, while the other reasons recorded the lowest percentage (10.1%). Among the early marriages in the governorate, the research also showed that there is a group of effects that females suffer as a result of early marriage, and the social effects topped the list with the highest percentage (40.3%), while the economic effects came with the lowest percentage (14.1%), in addition to the high rate of poverty and unemployment. In Al-Muthanna Governorate, the percentage of females married at an early age increases due to the lack of job opportunities there. The Salman district recorded the highest percentage (7.6%), while the Al-Rumaitha district recorded the lowest percentage (1.2%). |
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1. INTRODUCTION:

Marriage is the basis on which the family is based in all societies, and it constitutes a necessary social need in human life, so it is an integrated social system in which a group of aspects such as customs, social traditions, economic status, and education level affects, and result in a group of effects that affect marital life that may end Divorce, as well as the risks arising from early marriage at such age on the girl herself from all social, cultural, economic, health and psychological fields. Early marriage is defined as the one that precedes the completion of the physical, psychological, social, and cultural development of the girl, so the transition from adolescence to married life takes place (Shahwan, 2012, p. 6), which means that the girl enters married life at a young age and is unable to manage the affairs of the house and care for her husband due to their lack of experience and lack of experience in the issue of coexistence and adaptation besides Increasing their imaginative thinking and immaturity, so marital life turns into a miserable life and causes damage to marital life (al-Shammari, 2009, p. 143). It is clear from the current

Iraqi law that the legal age of marriage is set at 18 years, but Article 8 of the law also permitted marriage for those who have completed 15 years of age, provided that the court approves and the approval of the guardian. The judge may also authorize the marriage of a fifteen-year-old if he finds it absolutely necessary. Legal puberty and physical ability are required, and if the guardian refuses, the judge asks for his approval within a period he determines, and if he does not object or his objection is not worthy of consideration, the judge authorized the marriage (Law, 1959). The research problem is represented in the following question: What are the reasons that lead to the early marriage of females in the Muthanna Governorate? And what are the implications of it? The researcher assumes that there are a number of reasons that lead to early marriage for females in the Muthanna governorate, and this has a number of effects that a married girl suffers from at an early age. The research aims to study the causes of early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate and the consequences thereof, and the descriptive analysis method was relied upon in studying the variables that



accompanied the analysis of the causes of early marriage for females and the consequences thereof, as well as paying attention to the quantitative statistical aspects in measuring some of the causes of early marriage for females. As for the spatial boundaries, they were represented in Al-Muthanna Governorate at the district level, which is (Al-Samawah, Al-Rumaitha, Al-Khader, Salman, and Al-Warka), and the temporal boundaries were for the year (2021). (340) Supplement (1) questionnaire forms were distributed to the respondents for the purpose of giving real reasons behind early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate, with an explanation of some of the effects that a young married girl suffers from. As for the study area, it is represented in Al-Muthanna Governorate, which is located in the southwest of Iraq, as it is bordered to the east by Dhi. Qar Governorate and Basra Governorate, to the north by Al-Qadisiyah Governorate, to the west by Najaf Governorate, and to the south in the southwest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, see map Figure (1). The area of the governorate is (51740) km², which represents (11.99%) of the total area of Iraq, which amounts to (434,128) km², as for its astronomical location, it lies between two latitudes. (05, 31, 42-29) north of the equator and between longitudes (43.5-46.32) east) (Republic of Iraq, 2014). While the population of the governorate, according to population projections in 2021, reached (879874) people (Republic of Iraq M. o., 2021) As for the structure of the research, the research was divided into two axes. The first axis dealt with the causes of early marriage for females in the Muthanna Governorate, while the second axis touched on the effects that a married girl suffers from at an early age, as well as the conclusions and suggestions. The research aims to study the causes of early marriage for females in the Al-Muthanna Governorate and the consequences thereof and to develop proposals and recommendations that may contribute to reducing early marriage cases among females in the study area.

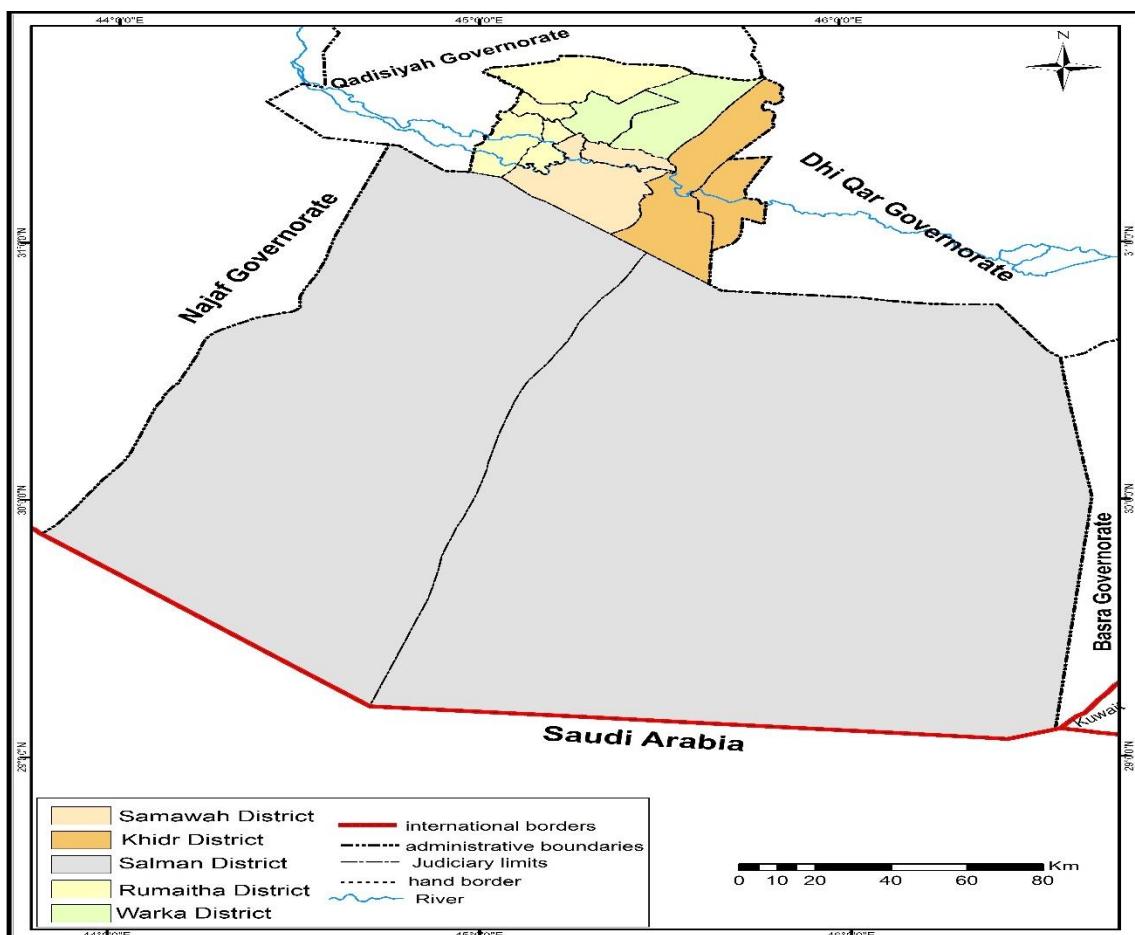


Figure1 the Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Water Resources, General Commission for Survey, Ma Production



Department, Iraq Administrative Map, 1000000:1 scales, Baghdad, 2019.

1.1 First, the reasons for early marriage for females in the Muthanna Governorate

There are many reasons for early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate, and it can be said that these reasons are multiple and varied and overlap with each other according to the cultural and social context of the community of the study area. Social customs, traditions, and social norms, and there are special reasons related to women and the life that they are tempted to reach and leave the family home, and among these reasons are:

1.1.1 customs and traditions

Customs and traditions play an important role in family life, especially marriage and childbearing, and these customs and traditions differ according to the social and cultural level between urban and rural residents, as some families marry females at a young age away from their desire to marry for fear of spinsterhood, and they find in it the preservation and chastity of the girl and the necessity of early childbearing In order to accustom their children early to assume responsibility and help them face the harsh conditions of life (Sarkis, 1989, p. 19), as well as to have a larger number of

sons to work and help fathers. It is clear from Table (1) and Map (2) that the cause of customs and traditions ranked first, with a rate of (29.4%). At the level of the administrative units, Al-Rumaitha district came with the highest percentage (8.8%) and this may be due to the sovereignty of the rural population in it, while Al-Samman district recorded the lowest percentage (4.1%) due to the lack of population in the district, and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest Administrative units in the province.

1.1.2 Limited education

Lack of education or limitations is one of the reasons for early marriage, the family is educated not married females only after the completion of the stages of the study, and the non-educated families or medium education, marry their daughters at an early age, especially in rural areas, and also girls' education plays a role in early marriage and the higher the level Education for girls, the later they get married (Bayisenge, 2010, p. 9), and that the scarcity of educational opportunities leads to girls staying at home and tending towards early marriage.

Table (1) Relative distribution of the causes of early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate

| the reasons instrumental units | customs and traditions | Fear of spinsterhood | limited education | bad economic situation | other reasons |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Samawah District | 6.8 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 4.1 |
| Rumaitha District | 8.8 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 1.2 | 2.1 |
| Khidr District | 5.0 | 2.1 | 8.5 | 3.2 | 1.2 |
| Salman District | 4.1 | 1.2 | 6.2 | 7.6 | 0.9 |
| Warka District | 4.7 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 3.5 | 2.1 |
| Total | 29.4 | 14.1 | 27.9 | 18.2 | 10.4 |

It is clear from Table (1) and Map Figure (2) that the reason for the criticality of education came in second place with a rate of (27.9%). In all fields so that she can perform her roles in life. At the level of administrative units, the Al-Khidr district came with the highest percentage of (8.5%) due to the increase in the percentage of rural areas in it. Al-Salman district recorded the lowest percentage (3.5%) due to the increase in the urban percentage in it, and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two

percentages for the rest of the administrative units in the governorate.

1.1.3 Poor economic situation

The poor economic situation is one of the most important reasons that face societies, and many families still suffer from it. The spread of poverty and unemployment in the governorate was one of the most important obstacles faced by these families. The stability of the economic situation is an essential factor in family cohesion and achieving its various needs. Having a source of funding for the family means

achieving stability. Financially, and thus enabling it to achieve its goals and vice versa, so some poor families seek to marry off females at an early age because this

will reduce material burdens such as health care and education costs and other things (Al-Faris., 2001, p. 71).

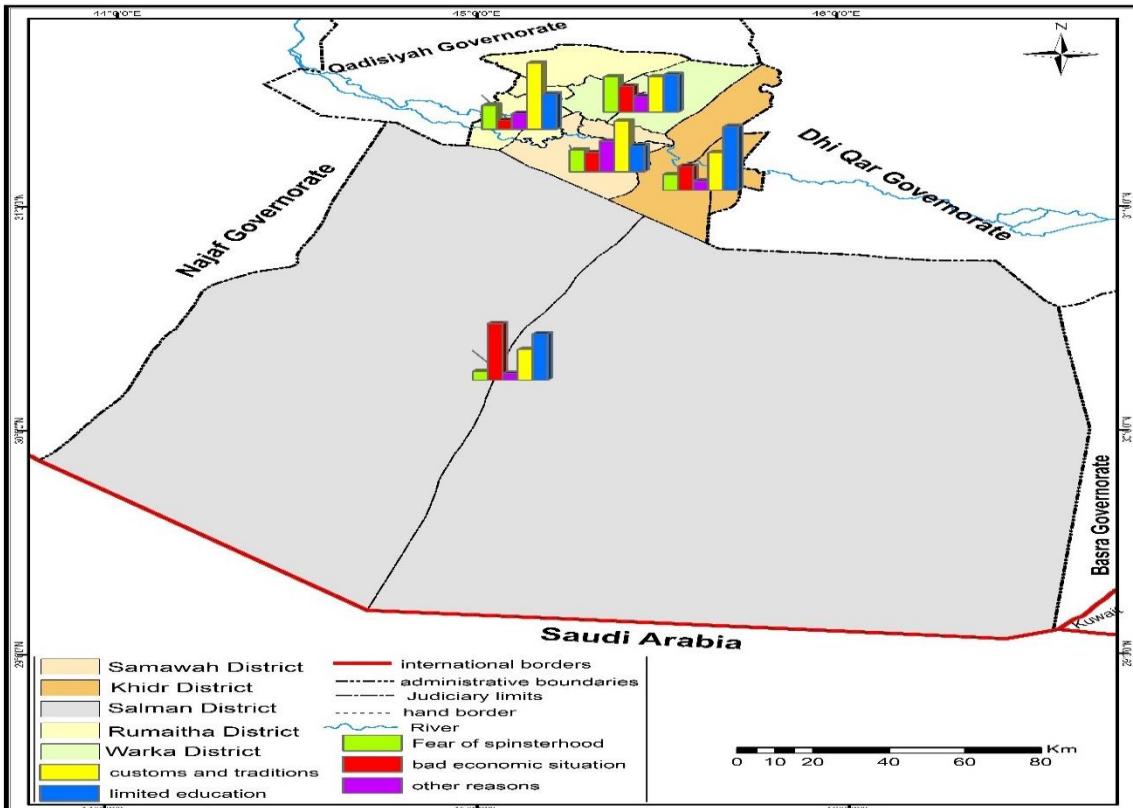


Figure 2 relative distribution of the causes of early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate

It is clear from Table (1) and Map (2) that the cause of the poor economic situation ranked third with a rate of (18.2%), and this may be attributed to the high rate of poverty and unemployment in the governorate. As the governorate of Al-Muthanna is considered the first in Iraq in terms of poverty, according to the report of the Ministry of Planning for the year (2021), in addition to the lack of job opportunities in it, At the level of administrative units, Al-Salman district had the

highest percentage of (7.6%) due to the increase in the unemployment rate and the lack of job opportunities there, while Al-Rumaitha district recorded the lowest percentage (1.2%) due to the availability of job opportunities there, and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest of the units administration in the province

highest percentage (4.7%) due to Females' orientation to education and employment, which leads to a delay in the age of marriage, while the Salman district recorded the lowest percentage (1.2%) due to limited education and employment and female orientation towards marriage at an early age, and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest of the administrative units in the governorate.

1.1.5 Other reasons

There is a set of reasons other than what was previously mentioned about early marriage in Muthanna Governorate, and among these reasons

1.1.4 Fear of spinsterhood

Some families believe that it is better for females to marry at an early age for fear of the specter of spinsterhood. Therefore, families push their girls to marry early, fearing that the girl will grow old and be considered outside the circle of better girls, which reduces the chances of young people advancing her. It is clear from Table (1) and Map Figure (2) that the cause of fear of spinsterhood came in fourth place with a rate of (14.1%) and this may be due to the female's stability in her husband's house and reassurance on her, and at the level of administrative units, the waka's district was dissolved with the



(religion, the nature of the prevailing law, gender discrimination, family disintegration), all of these reasons contribute directly to early marriage for females because religion encourages early marriage, but it is required Puberty, maturity and the ability to take responsibility. It is clear from Table (1) and Map (2) that the other reasons ranked last, with a rate of (10.4%) at the governorate level. As for the administrative units, Samawah district was dissolved with the highest percentage of (4.1%), while Al-Salman district recorded the lowest percentage, which amounted to (0.9%), and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest of the administrative units in the governorate

2.SECOND, THE EFFECTS OF EARLY MARRIAGE FOR FEMALES IN AL-MUTHANNA GOVERNORATE

The effects of early marriage, whether social, psychological, health, or economic, vary in the Muthanna governorate due to their inability to manage marital matters and their failure to take responsibility for family formation and raising children.

2.1 Social effects

Social effects have many effects, most notably her taking responsibility at an early age and her lack of knowledge of the rights and duties of her husband, and her lack of knowledge of the principles of proper education for her children, as well as her low cultural and educational level, which leads to a lack of understanding and homogeneity between the spouses, which results in the disintegration of the family or the emergence of some problems between them, which may end with divorce (Balash, 2014, p. 13), as well as depriving the female of the enjoyment of her childhood and the completion of the formation of her

independent personality. It is clear from Table (2) and Map (3) that the social effects ranked first with a percentage of (40.3%) at the governorate level. As for the administrative units, the Al-Salman district was dissolved with the highest percentage of (9.4%), due to the rule of social customs and traditions, as well as the low educational level that exposes the girl to many problems, including her inability to express her needs, so her fate remains in the hands of others, while Al-Rumaitha district recorded the lowest percentage (6.8%), and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest of the administrative units in the governorate.

2.2 Psychological effects

The psychological effects of early marriage for females are manifested in the emergence of some psychological disorders and diseases for them, as well as the disturbance of the relationship between the spouses due to the female's lack of awareness of the husband's requirements, which may lead to the emergence of depression, psychological anxiety, and mood swings, and the girl's lack of awareness of the marital relationship and the extent of its acceptance may cause diseases Numerous psyche for the girl as a result of the new (Karim, 2020, p. 250). life. Table (2) and Map (3) show that psychological effects ranked second with a rate of (30.9%) at the governorate level. As for the administrative units, the Warka district came in with the highest percentage of (8.5%), which may be attributed to the girl being deprived of her parents at Young age and her lack of awareness of the marital relationship, while the record. Al-Khader district has the lowest percentage (4.1%), and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest of the administrative units in the governorate.

Table (2) Relative distribution of the effects of early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate

| Archaeology | social effects | psychological effects | health effects | Economic effects |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| instrumental units | | | | |
| Samawah District | 9.1 | 5.6 | 3.2 | 2.1 |
| Rumaitha District | 6.8 | 7.6 | 2.1 | 3.5 |
| Khidr District | 7.1 | 4.1 | 5.6 | 3.2 |
| Salman District | 9.4 | 5.0 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| Warka District | 7.9 | 8.5 | 1.2 | 2.4 |
| Total | 40.3 | 30.9 | 14.7 | 14.1 |

2.3 Health effects

As a result of early marriage, a young girl suffers from many health risks resulting from pregnancy and childbearing due to the inability of her body to bear pregnancy, which may lead to death, in addition to the

deterioration of her health and infection with some diseases such as anemia and high blood pressure, in addition to damages to the young newborn such as weight loss (Al-Sabawi, 2007, p. 103). It is clear from Table (2) and Map Figure (3) that the health effects

ranked third, with a rate of (14.7%) at the governorate level. As for the administrative units, the Al-Khader district was dissolved with the highest percentage (5.6%), this may be due to a lack of health services provided. For the population, especially in

rural areas, while the Warka district recorded the lowest percentage (1.2%), and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest of the administrative units in the governorate

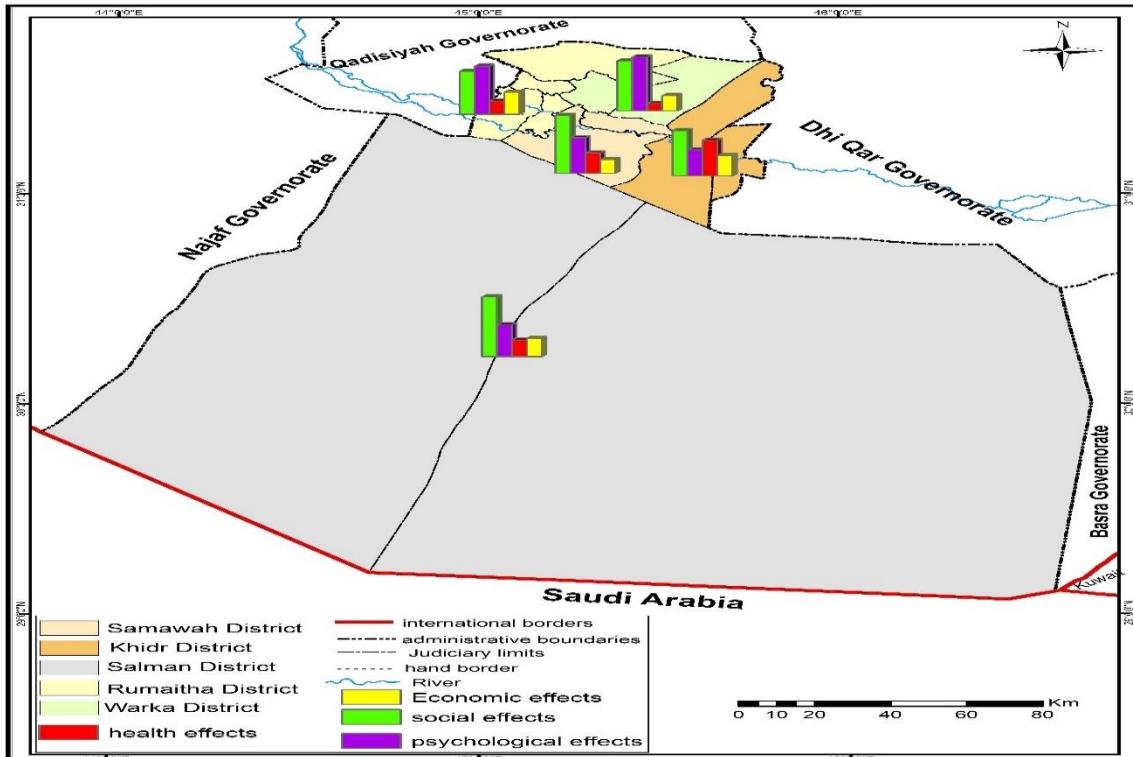


Figure 3 relative distribution of the effects of early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate

2.4 Economic effects

The economic effects of early marriage for females lie in the failure of one or both spouses to complete education, which may lead to a decrease in the chances of obtaining a job or work, as well as impeding economic development due to the low standard of living, especially for poor or low-income families, in addition to an increase in the dependency rate and pressure on the services provided. By the government to the people. Table (2) and Map Figure (3) shows that the economic effects ranked last at a rate of (14.1%) at the governorate level. As for the administrative units, Al-Rumaitha district was dissolved with the highest percentage (3.5%), and this may be attributed to the nature of the society, which sees that The right place for a girl in the home and raising her children, which reduces her chance of completing education and thus not getting a job, while the Samawah district recorded the lowest percentage (2.1%), and the rest of the percentages ranged between these two percentages for the rest of the administrative units in the governorate.

3. CONCLUSIONS

1. The study revealed that there is a discrepancy in the causes of early marriage at the level of administrative units in the Al-Muthanna Governorate. The highest percentage of social customs and traditions was (29.4%) among the reasons for early marriage due to the prevalence of the clan character, while the other reasons recorded the lowest percentage (10.1%). Among the early marriages in the province.
2. The study showed that limited education plays a major role in increasing the rate of early marriage for females, as it reached the highest percentage in Al-Khader district at (8.5%), while Al-Salman district recorded the lowest percentage (3.5%), which means that the high level of education leads to Reducing the incidence of early marriage for females to allow them to complete their studies.
3. The study showed that there is a group of effects suffered by females as a result of early marriage, and the social effects topped the list with the highest



percentage (40.3%), while the economic effects were recorded with the lowest percentage (14.1%).

4. The study showed that a married girl at an early age suffers from some psychological effects such as disorders, mental illness, depression, psychological anxiety, and mood swings, as the highest percentage of her was recorded in the Warka district at (8.5%), while the lowest percentage was recorded in the Al-Khader district at (4.1) %.

5. The study revealed that the high rate of poverty and unemployment in Al-Muthanna Governorate leads to a high percentage of females married at an early age due to the lack of job opportunities there, as the Salman district recorded the highest percentage of (7.6%), while Al-Rumaitha district recorded the lowest percentage, which amounted to (1.2) %).

Supplement (1)

Survey form

Dear Citizen

At the outset, a researcher extends his thanks and gratitude to you for taking the trouble to fill out the questionnaire and answer its questions, bearing in mind that the purpose of this study is to survey the opinion of the community in Al-Muthanna Governorate regarding the research project tagged {Early marriage for females in Al-Muthanna Governorate (causes and effects) a study in social geography} We hope for your cooperation with us Service for the public

1. Housing?

2. Gender?

3. What is the most common reason for early marriage for females, in your opinion?

- Customs and traditions
- Limited Education

Poor economic situation

- Fear of spinsterhood
- Other reasons mentioned

4. What are the effects of early marriage for females, in your opinion?

- Social effects
- Psychological effects
- Health effects
- Economic impacts
- Other effects mentioned

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