

# Geographical Analysis for Causes and Effects of Women Late Marriage Age (Spinsterhood) at Abi Al-Khaseeb District

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## Abstract

The study paper sheds light on the economic, social, health and psychological causes and the effects associated with the late marriage age (spinsterhood) of women in the Abi Al-Khaseeb District. The researcher made use of a questionnaire to clarify these causes and effects based on the descriptive, analytical and interpretive method.

**Keywords:** *marriage concept, late marriage age (spinsterhood)*

## Introduction

Marriage is the greatest human relationship concept that brings together a man and a woman. It guarantees affection and compassion between the spouses, and it is the only permanent relationship between them. Despite the importance of marriage, it was affected by a set of changes that society has known in recent years, which had a role in the aggravation of unemployment, the emergence of the housing crisis, the increase in the rate of immigration, in addition to the increase in the academic ambition of the girl and her entry into the field of work and her competition with the man, which led to her enjoying a greater degree of freedom and independence. All of these mentioned factors contributed to the late marriage age for women. Girls exceeded the age of 30 without marriage, which led to their sufferance from many psychological, social and health problems.

## Objectives of Study

This paper is after identifying the economic, social, psychological and health reasons that lead to the delay in the age of marriage for women in the district of Abi Al-Khaseeb. Besides, the paper looks for determination of the prominent social, health and psychological effects suffered by the late-marriage female. In addition, this paper intends to developing a set of suggestions to reduce the phenomenon and its effects.

## Importance of Study

The importance of this study paper lies in its endeavors to shed much light on women who vulnerable to late marriage age in Abi al-Khaseeb district. Besides, it focuses on the economic,

social, psychological and health reasons for late marriage age, as well as dealing with the effects of such phenomenon.

### **Problem of Study**

The problem of study is to answer a set of questions, namely:

- 1) What are the economic, social, health and psychological reasons for the late age of marriage for women in the district of Abi Al-Khaseeb?
- 2) What are the most prominent effects of the delay in the late age of marriage for women in the district of Abi Al-Khaseeb?

### **Study Hypothesis**

The study hypothesis is based on a decrease in the level of physical, psychological and social health of the girl suffering late age of marriage.

### **Study Methodology**

The study methodology aims to identify the level of mental health of the girl suffering late age of marriage and to reveal the extent of statistically significant differences between the causes and effects of the delayed age of marriage. The analytical descriptive approach that studies the variables of the study is used.

### **Study Tools**

The study adopted a personal and social data form (prepared by the researcher) as in Appendix (1) along with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test.

### **Study Sample**

The study was covered by a comprehensive sample consisting of (1459) unmarried girls, (1366) from the district center, and (94) from the Siba sub-district. It was calculated based on the data of family records collected from the town mayors, the municipality directorate and the district officer.

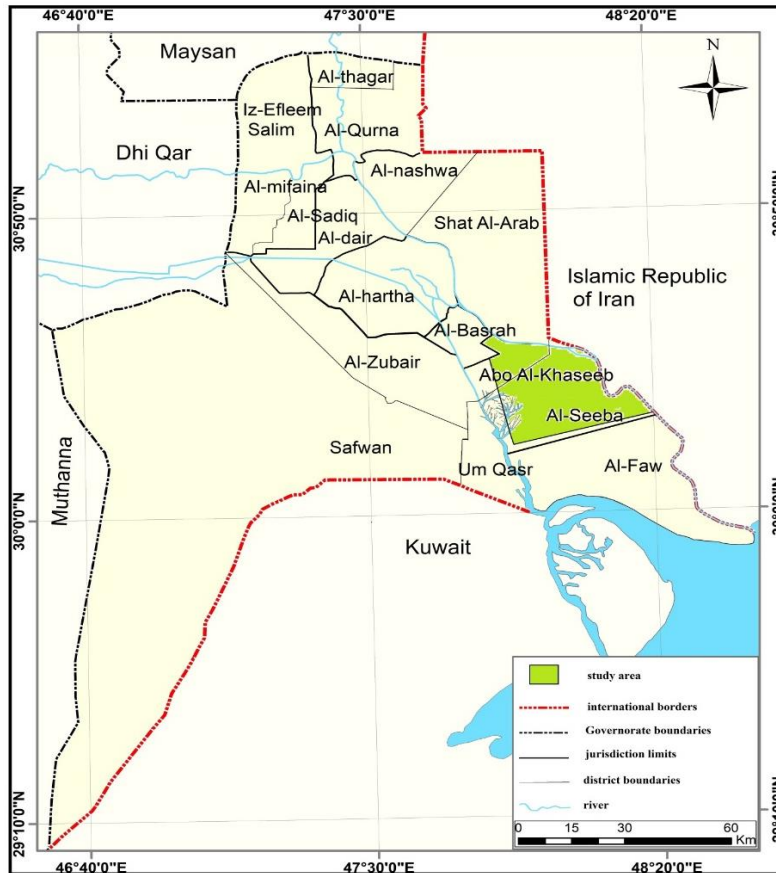
### **Study Area Boundaries**

The spatial boundaries of the study area are represented in the southeastern part of Basra Governorate as shown in Map (1). It is astronomically located within latitude 30.15\_30.30N and arc length 47.50\_47.30E, and its administrative divisions are represented in the district center and Al-Siba sub-district. This phenomenon has been studied within its (76) neighborhoods, as shown in Table (1) and Map (2). As for the time boundaries, they were based on the field study for the year 2022.

### Structure of Study

The structure of the study is represented by two sections. The first dealt with the reasons for the delay in the age of marriage for women, while the second dealt with the effects of the delay in the age of marriage.

**Map 1 - Location of Abi Al-Khaseeb District in Basra Governorate.**

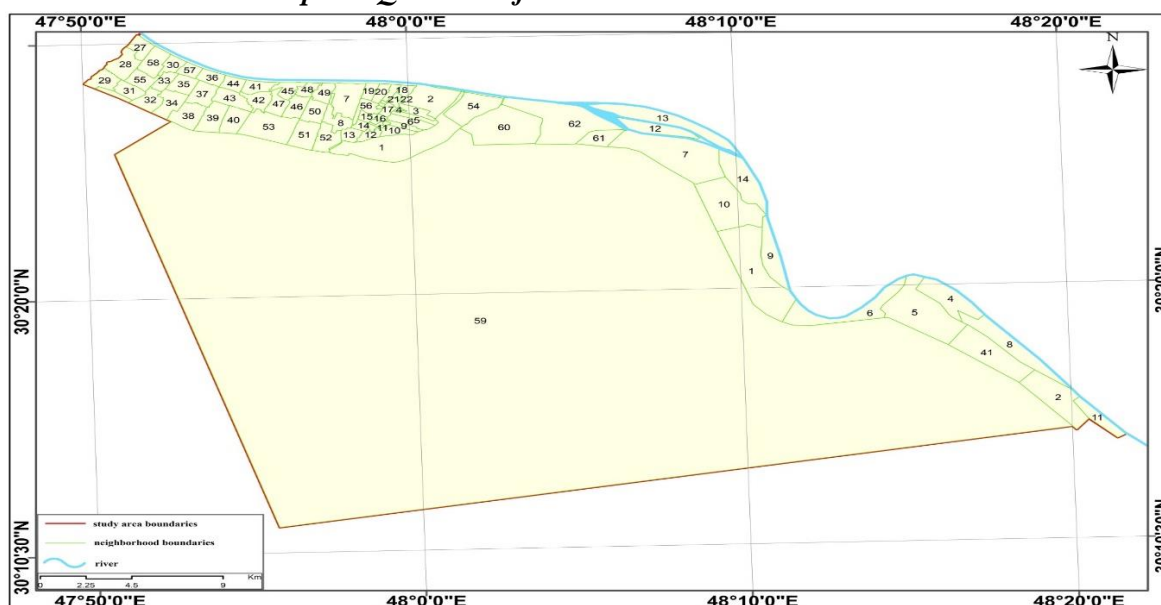


*Source: Created by the researcher based on GIS program*

**Table 1- Numbers of Abi Al-Khaseeb District**

ABI AL-KHASEEB DISTRICT CENTER					
Qr. No.	Name of Quarter	Qr. No.	Name of Quarter	Qr. No.	Name of Quarter
1.	MHAILA	21	ALBRAIM	41	LUQTA
2.	HAMZA FOOQ	22	QASABAT BAB MAIDAN	42	JAIKOOR
3.	RUMIYA AND BALAD NAJDI	23	NZAILA	43	BAB SULAIMAN
4.	MHAILAT AL SAQARWA	24	WESTERN BALAD SULTAN	44	BAB SULAIMAN QASABA
5.	SANKR	25	ABU KHAFEEF	45	BAB DABAGH

6.	SIBILIAT	26	BALAD SULTAN EASTERN	46	BAB ARIDH
7.	HAMZA	27	KUT AL DHAHI	47	NAHR KHOOZ
8.	WESTERN SIBILIAT	28	UWAISIAN	48	ABU MGHIRA
9.	NIZILA	29	UM NAAJ	49	QANTARA
10.	KUT AL FRAIH	30	FAJAT AL ARAB	50	BAB TAWHEEL
11.	KUT HAMDANI	31	BAHADRIYA	51	BAB TAWHEEL QASABA
12.	OUJA	32	BALAD SAYIED	52	MUFTIA
13.	TALAA HAMZA	33	SADA QARIA	53	DHAHIRYA
14.	AMIYA	34	BALAD MIHZIM	54	HUTA
15.	KUT NASAR	35	MHAJIRAN	55	BALAD
16.	SHEIKH IBRAHIM	36	YUSFAN	56	NIZAILA
17.	FAJAT NIMAH	37	HAMDAN	57	BAB RUMANA
18.	ABD AL IAN	38	KUT JFALA	58	BAB MIDAN
19.	SUBAKH	39	HAMDAN MAARIF	59	MSHAJIJA
20.	FAYYADHI	40	KUT SILHI	60	BALAD SULTAN
21.	BALJANIA			61	
<b>SIBA SUB-DISTRICT</b>					
Qr. No.	Name of Quarter	Qr. No.	Name of Quarter	Qr. No.	Name of Quarter
.1	SHALHAT DWAIB	6	SAIHAN	11	LUQTA
.2	RUMAILAT AND UM JANABI	7	KUT ZAIN	12	DUYAIB
.3	UM AL RASAS AND KHASASEEF	8	ZABADIA	13	MHAILA
.4	SHALHAT MUTAWAA	9	SHALHAT LUQTA	14	BAHAR
.5		10	MUTAWAA	11	SIBA

**Map 2 – Quarters of Abi Al-Khaseeb District 2022**

Source: Created by the researcher based on GIS program

## First Section: Reasons for the Delay in the Age of Marriage

Many have agreed that the delay in the age of marriage for women is due to a group of reasons that have a strong or weak effect on their advent. The jurisdiction has witnessed an increase in the number of women who are late in marriage, which is due to a number of reasons, as follows:

### First: Economic Reasons

Economic causes are defined as a group of various public and private circumstances that affect the development of the individual and society in terms of prosperity or economic stagnation. Such circumstances would affect the wealth of individuals and the fulfillment of their daily needs of food, clothing and housing, which varies according to the circumstances of individuals and their different fortunes from economic conditions of all kinds <sup>(1)</sup>.

It appears from the analysis of table (2) that the economic reasons ranked second at the district level out of the total reasons affecting the delay in the age of marriage for women, amounting to 402 females, or 27.5%. As for the level of the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, (23,376) females answered, representing (1.6.26%) of the total sample. As for this factor, the percentage in the Abi Al-Khaseeb district center and in the sub-district was (94.2%, 5.8%), respectively. As for the secondary causes, they are as follows:

### 1.1 Differences in Profession

The profession of the girl is one of the factors of attraction, as the suitors flock towards her to win her due to the social status that she enjoys, and their desire to participate in facilitating the household affairs. Besides, the profession may be a factor in expelling the suitors, as is the case

with the profession (nurse), and thus the girl's marriage age is delayed due to lack of a suitors' desire to marry such a girl. In addition, in some cases, the man looking for a wife may be well-off, so he stipulates that the girl should leave her job in order to devote herself to the responsibilities of the house, which results in the girl's refusal. Because she sees that her personality and position is represented in this job. Moreover, it appears from the analysis of table (3) that in the jurisdiction, this case was formed from the responses of late-marriage women, amounting to (50) females, representing 12.5% of the total economic reasons, and 3.4% of the total reasons. At the level of the district center and Al Siba sub-district, (3.47) females answered, representing (0.8, 11.8%) of the total number of economic reasons.

**Table 2 - Numerical and relative distribution of the reasons for the delay in the age of marriage for women in Abi Al-Khaseeb district and administrative units for the year 2022**

Reasons	Abi Al-Khaseeb District Center	%	Siba Qr.	%	District	%
Social	441	30.2	36	2.5	477	32.7
Economic	379	26	23	1.6	402	27.6
Psychological	284	19.5	21	1.4	305	20.9
Health	262	17.9	13	0.9	275	18.8
Total	1336	93.6	93	6.4	1459	100

*Source: Created by the researcher based on the questionnaire form*

## 1.2 Applicant for Marriage Has No State Position

The government job is of great importance in society, as it provides the individual with a prominent position in society and a comfortable life. Besides, it has an important role in the case of the late marriage age for women. It is not a secret that many women in the district and families reject the applicant who does not work in the government sector, as they see in him a future for the family because of the income provided monthly and retirement that protects the family from the repercussions of poverty and destitution, unlike private or self-employment that can be exhausted with the passage of time. In light of the lack of job opportunities in the government sector, this contributed to the delay in the age of marriage for women. From the analysis of table (3), this situation in the district formed from the responses of women who suffer late marriage, a number of (110), representing (27.6%) of the total economic reasons, while at the level of the district center and Al-Siba sub-district (2,108), representing (27.1, 0.5%) ) respectively out of the total economic reasons, and the percentage of (7.5%) of the total reasons.

**Table 3 - Percentage distribution of the reasons for delaying the age of marriage for women in Abi Al-Khaseeb district, according to administrative units, for the year 2022.**

<b>Economic reasons</b>	<b>Abi Al-Khaseeb District Center</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Siba Quarter</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<b>Total reasons</b>
<b>Profession difference</b>	47	11.8	3	0.75	50	12.5	3.4
<b>Not employed by government</b>	108	27.1	2	0.5	110	27.6	7.5
<b>Having no house</b>	166	41.6	14	3.51	180	45.1	12.3
<b>Girl participating in house fund</b>	55	13.8	4	1	59	14.8	4
<b>Total</b>	376	94.2	23	5.76	399	100	27.6
<b>Social reasons</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	
<b>Difference in age</b>	28	5.8	2	0.4	30	6.2	2.1
<b>Sequence of girls marriage</b>	30	6.2	2	0.4	32	6.6	2.2
<b>Family reputation</b>	35	7.3	4	0.8	39	8.1	2.7
<b>Applicant for marriage is divorced</b>	15	3.1	1	0.2	16	3.3	1.1
<b>Applicant for marriage is divorced</b>	25	5.2	2	0.4	27	5.6	1.9
<b>Difference in social level</b>	106	22	8	1.7	114	23.6	7.8
<b>Educational level difference</b>	83	17.2	4	0.8	87	18	6
<b>Difference in religion of doctrine</b>	18	3.7	1	0.2	19	3.9	1.3
<b>Tribal veto</b>	3	0.6	27	5.6	30	6.2	2.1
<b>Emotionally in love</b>	18	3.7	0	0	18	3.7	1.2
<b>Family rejection</b>	66	13.7	5	1	71	14.7	4.9
<b>Total</b>	427	93.4	56	6.6	483	100	32.7
<b>Health reasons</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	
<b>Disability</b>	90	31	3	1	93	32.1	6.4
<b>Sickness</b>	63	21.7	8	17.8	71	24.5	4.9
<b>Chronic disease</b>	122	42.1	4	11.1	8.6	43.2	126
<b>Total</b>	275	94.2	15	5.2	<b>18.8</b>	100	290
<b>Psychological reasons</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	
<b>Marriage phobia</b>	39	12.7	6	13.3	3.1	11.7	45
<b>Fear of holding</b>	34	11.9	2	4.4	2.5	33.9	36

responsibility							
<b>Fear of repeating other's experiences</b>	97	31.6	7	2.3	7.1	33.2	104
<b>Fear of the unknown</b>	94	30.6	8	2.6	7	6.2	102
<b>Total</b>	264	93.2	23	6.8	<b>20.9</b>	6.6	287
<b>Total of all</b>	1366	93.3	93	6.4	100	100	1459

*Source: Created by the researcher based on the questionnaire form*

### **1.3 Applicant for Marriage Not Recruited by Government**

The government job is of great importance in society, as it provides the individual with a prominent position in society and a comfortable life. Besides, it has an important role in the case of the late marriage age for women. It is not a secret that many women in the district and families reject the applicant who does not work in the government sector, as they see in him a future for the family because of the income provided monthly and retirement that protects the family from the repercussions of poverty and destitution, unlike private or self-employment that can be exhausted with the passage of time. In light of the lack of job opportunities in the government sector, this contributed to the delay in the age of marriage for women. From the analysis of table (3), this situation in the district formed from the responses of women who suffer late marriage, a number of (110), representing (27.6%) of the total economic reasons, while at the level of the district center and Al-Siba sub-district (2,108), representing (27.1, 0.5%) ) respectively out of the total economic reasons, and the percentage of (7.5%) of the total reasons.

### **1.4 Marriage Applicant Has No a Private House (Housing Crisis)**

It looks like that property is the guarantee for the stability of the family. Therefore, the applicant for marriage does not own the property or the rental charge, which rises to between 200,000 – 600,000 IRQD, and thus constitutes one of the obstacles that some women see as a reason for this dilemma. Hence, the applicant may refuse to marry. From the analysis of table (3), it appears that the response of (180) females at the level of the district, representing (45.1%) of the total economic reasons, either at the level of the district center and Al-Siba sub-district (166, 14), representing (41.6, 3.51%), respectively, of the total economic causes, and (12.3%) of the total causes.

### **1.5 Girl's Participation to the Household Expenses**

Some girls contribute to the household expenses because they feel responsible towards her family, especially in the event that she is alone or that she is the eldest among the girls, which leads her to refuse marriage. As such type of girls think, they cannot marry and abandon the family, due to the economic conditions that the family is going through, in addition to that some families refuse to let their daughters get married as a result of their adoption on her. From the analysis of table (3), this situation has contributed at the district level, according to the answers of late-marriage women, with (59) females, representing (14.8%) of the total economic reasons,



while in the district center and Siba sub-district, the answer is (55.4) females, representing a percentage (13.8, 1%) of the total economic reasons. As for all causes, it constituted (4%).

## **Second: Social Reasons**

Social reasons play a prominent role in the phenomenon of the late marriage age for women in all societies, and this affects the cohesion of the family and its construction, and then society. In Abi Al-Khaseeb district, a group of social causes with a direct impact on women emerged, which ranked first, as shown in table (2), with a total of (483) females, representing (33.1%) of the total causes. As for the Abi Al-Khaseeb district center, it reached ( 441) females, representing (30.2%) of the total causes. As for Al-Siba district, it amounted to (36) females, representing (2.5%) of the total causes. As for the worker level, it appears in table (46) and figure (31). The percentage for Abi Al-Khaseeb district and Al-Siba district reached (93.4, 6.6%) of the total social causes. As for the secondary causes, they are as follows:

### **2.1 Age Difference**

There are many families who refuse to let their daughters get married because of the age difference, as if the applicant is older or younger than her. It appears from the analysis of table (3) in the district that this reason was formed from the responses of late-marriage women, a number of (30), representing (6.2%) of the total social reasons, while in the district center and Al-Siba sub-district (2, 28), representing (5.8) , 0.4%, respectively, of the total social causes, while this reason occupied the percentage of (2.1%) of the total causes.

### **2.2 Sequence of Daughters by Marriage**

The birth sequence is of great importance to some families due to the customs and traditions that they adopt in making the decision to accept marriage applicants. From their point of view, the older girl must be married before the younger one. Therefore, even if the suitors turn out for the younger one, the younger one grows older while waiting for her older sister to marry. An analysis in table (3) shows that in the district, (32) female respondents of delayed marriage, representing (26%) of the total social reasons, as for the district center and Siba sub-district, answered (30.2) female, representing (percentage) 6.2, 0.4%, respectively, of the total social causes, while these percentages occupied (2.2) of the total social causes.

### **2.3 Family Reputation**

The reputation of the family in terms of the girl or the young man has a significant impact on the marriage age delay. For example, if the father is of abnormal behavior, in addition to the reputation of the mother if she is of bad fame or even if she is divorced. This may lead to the girl's refusal or not to propose marriage to her as well. In the case of a young man, he may come from a family with a bad reputation, which makes the girl or her family not accept him. It appears in table (3) that this situation has contributed at the district level and according to the answers of late-marriage women with (39) females, representing (8.1%) of the total social

causes, while at the level of the district center and Al Siba sub-district the answer is (35, 4) females. That is, by (7.3, 0.8%) of the total social causes. As for all causes, it constituted (2.2%).

#### **2.4 Applicant for Marriage Is Divorced**

Some families refuse the engagement of their daughters with a divorced man, and some girls also refuse that, whatever the reasons for divorce, as they see him as an irresponsible man who was unable to succeed in his first marriage. Especially, if the divorced man has children, as the girl or her family believes that this adds to her an additional responsibility, as she has to raise and care for the children of the husband. The analysis of table (3) brings about that these percentages were formed at the level of the district and according to the answers of late-marriage women with (16) females, representing (3.3%) of the total social causes, while in the center of the district and Al-Siba sub-district, the answer is (15, 1) female, that is, by (3.1, 0.2%) of the total social causes. However, at the level of all causes, it constituted (1.1%) of the total causes.

#### **2.5 Applicant for Marriage Is Married**

This factor is one of the prominent reasons for the delay in the age of marriage. Because many applicants for marriage are rejected on the pretext that he is married, despite the legal permissibility of polygamy for a man in certain cases if his wife is sick, sterile, or other reasons. It appears from the analysis of table (3) that this reason was formed from the responses of late-marriage women at the district level, a number of (27), representing (5.6%) of the total social reasons, while at the level of the district center and Siba sub-district, it amounted to (25, 2), that is, by (5.2, 0.4%), respectively, of the total social causes, while this reason occupied (1.9%) of the total causes.

#### **2.6 Differences in Social Level**

The social level is considered the most significant reason affecting marriage. Many families with a good social and economic level refuse to let their daughters get married to families of a lower level than them. In most cases, the family interferes with the opinion of the girl or the young man, which leads to a delay in their marriage age. From the analysis of table (3), it discloses that (114) females answered this reason in the district, representing (23.6%). As for the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, (8.106) females answered, representing (1.7.22%) of the total social reasons, with a percentage of (7.8%) of the total causes.

#### **2.7 Differences in Educational Level**

University academic achievement is linked to many indicators, especially marriage, as many of them cling to academic achievement, specifically university or beyond, which is a reason for delaying their marriage. The applicant is also rejected due to the difference in educational level, as the applicant is rejected unless he is at the same level of education, especially girls. Holders of postgraduate degrees, or may be teachers, doctors, or other high educational levels. This refusal is not only done by the girl, but also by her family, as the applicant is rejected unless he has the

same level of education. From the analysis of table (3), it comes out that this reason has occupied (87) of the answers of women at the district level, speaking for (18%) of the total social reasons, while in the district center and the Siba sub-district, (4.83) females answered, representing (a percentage of ( 17.2, 0.8% of the total number of social causes and (0.6%) of the total number of all causes.

## **2.8 Differences of Religion and Doctrine**

Religion and doctrine are of great importance in the Islamic community and have a great influence on marriage at the present time, especially after 2003, which led to the displacement of many families of different sects and sects, bringing with them their customs and traditions to the city that immigrated to, in a way that affected its original inhabitants, who became a minority in under this human crawl from within the province or neighboring provinces, especially Dhi Qar and Maysan, which had a role in delaying the age of marriage for some women. It appears from the analysis of table (3) in the district, that this reason has formed (19) of the responses of women who are late in marriage, speaking for (3.9%) of the total social reasons, either in the district center and in Siba sub-district ( 1, 2) female, speaking for (3.7%, 0.2%), respectively, of the total social causes, while this factor constituted (1.3%) of the total of all causes.

## **2.9 Tribal Customs**

Tribal customs and traditions has had an effect on a girl marriage to some extent. Such tribal customs encourages old concepts of “no marriage outside family”, and girls shall not marry a man who is a stranger to the tribe. This custom enables the cousin or uncle to forbid the girl to marry her to one of his relatives, regardless of whether there is an understanding between them, a large age difference, or the girl’s consent to that <sup>(2)</sup>. Its predominance in our society is due to the lack of awareness among the tribe members in particular and the members of society in general. The woman in the tribal society may be a victim of the father, son or cousin.. It turns up from the analysis of table (3) that this reason has been answered by (40) of the responses of late-marriage women at the district level, represented by (6.2%). In the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, the answer is (3.27) females, represented by a percentage (0.6, 5.6%), respectively, of the total social causes, with a rate of (2.1%) of the total causes.

## **2.10 Being Emotionally Attached**

The girl’s emotional attachment is a reason for the delay in her marriage age, as it pushes her to reject all those who propose to her, and to wait for someone who promised her marriage. Hence, advancing age, especially since many young people may not abide by the promises they made. It appears in table (3) that this reason was answered by (18) women who are late in marriage, at the district level, speaking for (3.7%), while at the level of the district center (66) females, representing (3.7%), while the Siba district was of zero percentage of the total social causes, and occupied by (1.2%) of the total causes

## 2.11 Family Refusal

The family has a major role in making the decision of marriage, so the family's refusal has a prominent role in delaying the age of marriage. This refusal has a great impact on the girl, especially if there is no obstacle preventing her marriage, in addition to the absence of defects for the applicants to marry her. Many families practice refusal for many reasons, some of which have been mentioned, and it may be their inability to separate from their daughter, or she may be employed as a maid, especially if the stepmother controls the family so that she presents her daughters for marriage without her husband's daughter, which leads to an advanced age of marriage for a number of girls. It looks like from the analysis of table (3) that this reason was answered by (71) of unmarried women, speaking for (14.7%) of the total social reasons, while in the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, it was (66.5) females, speaking for (13.7.0%). 1% of the total social causes, while it occupied (4.9%) of the total of all causes.

## Third: Health Reasons

Health plays a major role in a person's life, in his/her decision-making and in the course of his/her life. It affects the girl's life and the delay in her marriage age. It appears from the analysis of Table (2) that this cause ranked fourth at the level of the district, according to the answers of late-marriage women with (290) females, that is, by (19.9%) of the total causes of all, while in the center of the district of Abi Al-Khaseeb and the sub-district of Siba there were (15,262), representing (17.9, 0.9%) of the total health causes. As for the level of these causes, it appears from the analysis of table (2). The percentage for the district of Abi Al-Khaseeb and al-Siba district was (94.2, 5.2%), respectively. As for the secondary causes, they are as follows:

### 3.1 Health Disability

A girl may be completely or partially handicapped, such as being paralyzed, lame, blind, one-eyed, or missing a part of her body, so no one thinks of getting married to her because the man wants a wife who is not disabled. The society criticizes him for such a marriage. From the analysis of table (3) it appears that (93) females responded to this reason at the district level, speaking for (32.1%) of the total health reasons, while in the district center it was (90) females, speaking for (31%), while in Al-Siba sub-district, it constituted (3%), speaking for (1%) of the total health causes, and (4.9%) of the total of all causes.

### 3.2 Being Sick

The diseases that the girl is exposed to vary, and there are many diseases that contribute to the delay in the age of her marriage. It may be that the disease does not allow her to marry, or that the man refuses to marry a girl who suffers from a certain disease due to the ideas of society, customs and traditions that do not allow this. It comes out from the analysis of table (3) that this reason was answered by (71) females, representing (24.48%) of the total social reasons, while in the Abi Al-Khaseeb district center, it was (63) females, speaking for (21.7%). While it reached

(8) in Al-Siba sub-district, standing for (17.8%) of the total health causes, and (4.9%) of the total of all causes.

### **3.3 Chronic Diseases**

Chronic diseases portray a major role in burdening women, such as diseases (diabetes, pressure, asthma, epilepsy, etc.), which are a reason for delaying the age of marriage for women. Many young men refuse to marry a girl who suffers from a chronic disease for fear of inheriting it to their children or seeing it as a burden. Families may refuse to let their sons get married to this type of girl. It appears from the analysis of table (3) that this reason was answered by (126) females, representing (43.5%), while in the district center (122) representing (42.1%), and in Siba sub-district (4) females, representing (11.1%) of the total Health reasons, with a rate of (8.6%) out of the total number of all causes.

### **Fourth: Psychological Reasons**

Psychological causes are the manifestations of maladaptation that the girl is exposed to, which affect her building successful social relationships with others and her achievement of social acceptance. Women who are late in getting married are exposed to many psychological reasons that delay their marriage. It appears from the analysis of table (3) that the psychological reasons ranked third according to the answers of late-marriage women, amounting to (305) of the responses of late-marriage women, speaking for (20.9%) of the total reasons for all, while it was in the center of Abi Al-Khaseeb district, (284) cases. That is, at a rate of (19.5%) of the total psychological causes, while in Al-Siba sub-district, it reached (21) females, or (1.4%) of the total psychological causes., (6.84%), respectively. As for the secondary causes, they are as follows:

### **4.1 Marriage Phobia**

The phobia of marriage is mostly made up of illogical reasons that push the girl to refuse to marry everyone who proposes to her, as this marriage phobia may arise from the environment in which the girl lives, which may be an inappropriate environment, as the parents are constantly in disagreement between them, or that the father uses violence against children, which constitutes a girl's fear of forming a family that may be similar to her family. Besides, this phobia may have its origin from a previous unsuccessful experience, which makes her afraid of entering into a new relationship. Or she may feel afraid of her friends talking about marriage and the problems that associated with it <sup>(3)</sup>. It appears from the analysis of table (3) in the district that this reason was formed from the responses of late-marriage women, a number of (45), standing for (11.7%) of the total psychological reasons, while in the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, it amounted to (6.29) respectively, representing a percentage ( 12.7, 13.3%, respectively, of the total social causes, and a percentage of (10.1%) of the total causes.

#### **4.2 Fear of Holding Responsibilities**

Fear of the responsibility of marriage, including taking care of the home, children, and other family relationships, may cause many girls to reject those who propose marriage, which will play a role in delaying the age of marriage. It comes out from the analysis of table (3) that in the district, this reason was formed, (36) of the total sample answered, standing for (33.9%) of the total psychological reasons, while in the center of Abi Al-Khaseeb district, it was (34) females, standing for (11.9%). Whereas, in Al-Siba district, it reached (2), speaking for (4.4%) of the total psychological causes, and (2.5%) of the total of all causes.

#### **4.3 Fear of Repeating Experiences of Others in Marriage**

Many failed marriages and the harsh experiences of friends, relatives, or parents push the girl to fear marriage, so she refuses everyone who proposes to marry her for fear of living the same experience as her peers. With the passage of time, she will advance in her marriageable age. From the analysis of table (3), it appears that (104) women who are late in getting married answered this reason at the district level, representing (33.2%) of the total psychological reasons, while in the center of Abi Al-Khaseeb district, it reached (97) females, speaking for (31.6%) while it reached (7) in Al-Siba sub-district, representing (2.3%) of the total psychological causes, and (7.1%) of the total of all causes.

#### **4.4 Fear of the Unknown (Thinking about Future)**

One of the thoughts that a girl has when thinking of accepting or rejecting marriage is the future and the coming days, how she will be if she decides to marry, which may lead to her refusal of getting married. Therefore, these fears may be one of the reasons that lead to the delay in a girl's marriage. This excessive thinking about the future may arise from the environment in which the girl lives, as it may contain violence and persecution, which leads her to refuse marriage and enter into a state of excessive thinking about the future. From the analysis of table (3) of the responses of late-marriage women, it appears that there were (102) females, speaking for (6.2%) of the total psychological reasons, while it reached (94) females at the district level, speaking for (30.6%) of the total psychological reasons. As for the psychological reasons, in Al-Saiba district, it reached (8) females, standing for (2.6%) females from the total number of economic reasons, and (7%) from the total number of all reasons for delaying the age of marriage for women.

#### **Second Topic: Effects of delaying Age of Marriage**

The late age of marriage is a precursor to the emergence of many social, health and psychological problems on society in general and on women in particular. It changes society's view of her and thus changes their role and social status. In order to give a clearer picture of the problem, some of its effects in the district can be clarified, which are classified as follows:

## First: Social Effects

The society's view of the late-marriage age is a burden on society, which generates various pressures that a late-married girl is exposed to various troubles in the social. Faced with this diversity, many dangerous effects are produced, the most important of which is moral deviation, the spread of immoralities, and social weakness, which has a major role in destroying the family and society. It appears from the analysis of table (4) that the social effects ranked first among women who suffer from social effects, with a total of (532) females, at a rate of (36.5%) of the total effects, (34.5, 2%). As for this effect, the percentage reached (94.6, 6.2%) in the district center of Abi Al-Khaseeb and Al-Siba district, respectively, as shown in table (5). As for the secondary effects that fall under it, they are as follows:

**Table (4) - Relative numerical distribution of the effects of the delay in the age of marriage for women in Abi al-Khaseeb district and administrative units for the year 2022.**

Effects	Abi Al-Khaseeb District's Center	%	Siba Quarter	%	District	%
Social	503	34.5	29	2	532	36.5
Health	461	31.6	41	2.8	502	34.4
Psychological	402	27.6	23	1.6	425	29.1
Total	1366	93.6	93	6.4	1459	100

*Source: Created by the researcher based on the questionnaire form*

### 1.1 Moral Deviation

Moral deviation means that young men and women lose the essence of Islamic values and principles, and deviant behavior that deviates significantly from the standards established for people in their social conditions <sup>(4)</sup>. Moral deviation is a very serious phenomenon that casts a light on the individual and society. The delay in the age of marriage and the absence of religious awareness lead some girls to moral deviation. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that in the district, (75) females answered, speaking for (14.1%) of the total social effects, while in the center of the district and in Al-Siba sub-district an answer of (71 , 6) Female, speaking for (13.4, 1.2%), and (5.2%) out of all causes.

### 1.2 Poor Social Ties

Sometimes, the girl who is late in marriage suffers weaknesses in her social communication process, which refers to the complete or almost total absence of communication with individuals and society, and often the isolation is involuntary, which distinguishes her from the isolated tendencies or actions of the person and results in many effects, including the outbreak of disputes with close people who they talk to from time to time. Or it may result in problems with the family, as the family relationship is of great importance in achieving growth, and family relations are negatively affected as a result of the presence of an unmarried girl, especially if the educational status is modest, which makes the family take a path that makes the girl go to isolation that leads to the emergence of strange thoughts and behaviors within the person, and the

daily effect of isolation is staying at home for hours, days, or even weeks and not contacting any of the close ones <sup>(5)</sup>. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that this effect was the answer of (51) women who are late in marriage, whether at the level of the district or the center of the district, with a rate of (9.6%) of the total social effects, while the Siba district got zero of this reason. As for the total social effects, it reached (3.5%).

### 1.3 Acceptance of a Younger Person

Arab society in general, and Iraqi society in particular, accepts the marriage of a young man to a girl younger than him in age, even if the age difference between them is more than 25 years. However, society rejects the girl's engagement to a person younger than her, even if the difference between them is one year or months. In recent years and due to the large number of women who are late in getting married, there has been a major change in the tendency of girls to marry someone younger than her. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that this effect occupied (31) of the responses of late-marriage women, representing (5.8%) of the total social effects, while in the district center and Al-Siba sub-district the response was (29.2), speaking for (5.5, 0.4% of the total social effects, and 2.1% of the total of all effects.

### 1.4 Acceptance of an Older Person

The late age of marriage prompts some girls to accept marriage with an old man, even if he is the age of her father, in order to escape from the pressure of the family or society. Even if they are from two different generations. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that this impact was shaped by the response of (75) females at the level of the district, representing (14.1%) of the total social effects. As for the level of the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, the response of (68.5) females, speaking for (12.8%) , 1% of the total social causes, and (5.1%) of the total of all effects.

*Table (5)- Numerical and relative distribution of the effects of delaying the age of marriage for women in Abu al-Khaseeb district, according to administrative units, for the year 2022.*

Social effects	Abi Al-Khaseeb District Center	Total causes %	Siba Quarter	Total causes %	District	Total causes %	Total causes %
Moral deviation	71	13.4	6	1.2	75	14.1	5.1
Social ties weaknesses	51	9.6	0	0	51	9.6	3.5
Accepting younger person	29	5.5	2	0.4	31	5.8	2.1
Accepting older person	68	12.8	5	1	75	14.1	5.1
Accepting married,	123	23.1	8	1.6	131	24.6	9



widowed or divorced person							
Hastened to get married	161	30.3	10	2	171	32.1	11.7
Total	503	94.6	29	6.2	532	100	36.5
<b>Health effects</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	
Delay in pregnancy	211	42	21	4.2	232	46.2	15.9
Miscarriage cases	144	28.7	11	2.2	155	30.9	10.6
Physical diseases	106	21.1	9	1.8	115	22.9	7.9
Total	461	91.8	41	8.1	502	100	34.4
<b>Psychological effects</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	
Isolation	118	27.8	7	1.7	125	29.4	8.6
Overthinking and fear	51	12	3	0.7	54	12.7	3.7
Aggression and hatred	104	24.5	4	0.9	108	25.4	7.4
Committing suicide	25	5.9	0	0	25	5.9	1.7
Feeling guilty	104	24.5	9	2.1	113	26.6	7.8
Total	402	94.6	23	5.4	425	100	29.1

*Source: Created by the researcher based on the questionnaire form*

### 1.5 Acceptance of a Married, Widowed or Divorced person

The chances of a girl marriage decrease with the age of a young man about to marry for the first time. This belief is prevalent among the people of the Arab community. Therefore, some families force their daughters to marry a married, divorced, or widower man. The pressure that the girl is exposed to from society or the family may be the main reason for her acceptance by marrying anyone without being acquainted with such a person, and she may expose herself to a secret marriage that takes place on an incorrect basis, which causes many problems that lead to the failure of these marriages. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that this effect was formed by the responses of late-marriage women, a number of (131), or (24.6%) of the total psychological effects. ) speaking for (23.1, 1.6%), respectively, of the total social effects, while it reached (9%) of the total of all effects.

### 1.6 Hastened to Get Married

Some women may hasten to get married out of their desire to escape the look of regret and pity from the family and society. This is so because they lose hope that they will get a chance to get married regardless of the parity between the two partners. It comes out from the analysis of table (5) that this effect has been occupied by (171) women who are late in marriage, speaking for (32.1%) of the total social effects. As for the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, (10,161)

females answered, speaking for by ( 30.3, 2%, respectively, but out of the total of all causes, it amounted to (11.7%).

## **Second: Health Effects**

The health changes resulting from the late age of marriage and the case of women getting old are many that have negative effects on the girl in particular and society in general. The woman has a state of imbalance as soon as she approaches climacterium, as her chances of pregnancy may decrease, and the woman may be exposed to the possibility of miscarriage as well as the possibility of exposure to certain physical diseases with the late age of marriage. The analysis of table (5) shows that in the district, the health effects ranked second in the district, with (502) females, with a rate of (34.4%), while in the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, it amounted to (41,461) females, with a rate of (31.6, 2.8%). At the level of health effects, the percentage of (91.8, 8.2%) in the district of Abi Al-Khaseeb and Al-Siba district, respectively, was as shown in Table (5).

### **2.1 Delayed Pregnancy**

With the delay in the marriage age of women, their reproductive ability begins to decline gradually until they reach climacterium. Some studies have concluded that there is a hypothetical model of the ability to reproduce, which indicates that the percentage of females capable of pregnancy rises from (1%) at the age of 14 to reach the maximum, which is (93%) at the age of 22, and then begins to gradually decline after getting older, until the age of 50, to reach again (1%) only<sup>(6)</sup>. Also, getting old leads to enlarged eggs and the possibility of conceiving a child suffering from Down Syndrome or a child suffering from various diseases, especially after the age of forty years, in addition to increasing the possibility of cesarean delivery due to the difference in hormones in women with age. Getting older may also increase the possibility of a girl suffering from infertility whenever she approaches the age of forty, as the infertility rate reached 5% for women between the ages of twenty to twenty-four years, and rose to 10% for women whose ages are at the age of thirty years and 15% at women whose age is before thirty-five and 30% for women over the age of forty (7). And it appears in table (5) that this effect was shaped by the response of (242) females, with a rate of (26.2%) of the total health effects. As for the level of the district and in Al-Siba sub-district, the response of (211, 21) females, with a rate of (45, 4.1%) of the total psychological effects. As to the level of all causes, as in table (57), it constituted (15.9%).

### **2.2 Rise in Abortion Cases**

Miscarriage is determined by the loss of the fetus while it was in its mother's womb before it was born. Therefore, the delay in the age of marriage for women increases the possibility of their exposure to repeated abortions. With age, problems occur for women in the genes, as once the genes are increased or decreased, miscarriage occurs. It causes the fetus to not develop properly<sup>(7)</sup>. It appears from the analysis of Table (5) that this effect has occupied the response of

(155) women who are late in marriage at the level of the district, i.e. (30.9%) of the total health reasons, while in the center of the district and the district of Siba, the response of (1144, 11) females At a rate of (28.7, 2.2%) of the total health effects, while it constituted (10.62%) of the total of all health effects.

### **2.3 Physical Illnesses**

With the late age of marriage, women suffer from many changes that lead to their exposure to many physical diseases, including bone pain resulting from osteoporosis as a result of a decrease in bone density with age, which reaches its severity at the age of thirty, in addition to exposure to dry skin and shortness of breath as a result of the lungs begins getting aged after the age of forty, as its ability to pump blood decreases, in addition to its exposure to stomach ulcers<sup>(8)</sup>. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that (115) females answered at the level of the district, speaking for (22.9%) of the total number of health reasons, while in the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, it amounted to (106.9) females, at a rate of (21.1, 1.8%) of the total number of health reasons, while it constituted (7.9%) of the total effects.

### **Third: Psychological Effects**

Psychological effects or psychological pressures are the human phenomena that the individual is exposed to in different life situations, and may result from the interaction of the individual with the environment around him/her through exposure to stimuli that the individual may perceive as stressful. Psychological stress is the individual's response to stimuli, that is, it is a psychological reaction that results in biological changes that appear on the individual and on the girl who is late in marriage in the form of behavioral, psychological and physical disorders. When self-preparations are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the juvenile, it results in tension, psychological imbalance and emotional instability<sup>(9)</sup> and unmarried women suffer from these effects. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that in the district, the psychological effects ranked third with a total of (425) females, at a rate of (29.1%) of the women in the district who are late in marriage, at a rate of (402) females, speaking for (27.6%) female, and (1.6%) in the Siba sub-district. As for the district center and Siba sub-district, the percentage was (94.6, 5.4%), respectively. The psychological effects are as follows:

### **3.1 Isolation and Introversion**

It means introverting away from others, or avoiding establishing a relationship with them at all. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that this effect was the response of (125) women who are late in marriage at the level of the district, speaking for (29.4%) of the total psychological effects. As for the level of administrative units, in the center of Abi Al-Khaseeb district, it amounted to (118), representing a percentage (27.8%) of the total psychological effects, while in the area of Siba, it reached (7), standing for (1.7%), while at the level of all effects, it constituted (8.6%).

### **3.2 Thinking and Worrying a Lot**

Anxiety is a feeling of tension, fear, and overthinking, which are natural feelings that occur when exposed to psychological pressure. They may be accompanied by high blood pressure and a rapid heartbeat. A woman who is exposed to thinking and anxiety affects her life activities. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that this effect was the answer of (54) females at the district level, with a rate of (12.7%), while at the level of administrative units and in the district center, it reached (51) females, or (12%), while in Siba sub-district it reached (3) female, speaking for (0.7%) of the total psychological effects. However, at the level of all causes, it constituted (3.7%).

### **3.3 Aggression and Hatred Towards People**

Through the personal interview conducted with a number of women whose are vulnerable to late marriage age. It is reflected that hostility and hatred appeared in their body features, by blaming the men who turned away from them or the family that stood in the way of their share by refusing to let her get married, and the society and its views and difficult conditions of society that pushed them to delay their marriage<sup>(10)</sup>. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that (108) females answered, with a rate of (25.4%) of the total psychological effects, while at the level of the district center and Al-Siba sub-district (104.4) females, speaking for (0.9, 24.5%). As for the total of all causes, it constituted (7.4%).

### **3.4 Committing Suicide**

Suicide is intentionally killing oneself. As a result of what the girl is exposed to in terms of depression and pressure, and this action leads her to depression and then suicide with the passage of age. It appears from the analysis of table (5) that this effect has formed the response of (25) females at the level of the district, representing (5.9%) of the total psychological effects. This percentage was represented in the center of Abi Al-Khaseeb district. However, at the level of all the effects, it has (1.7%). This percentage shows the nature of the pressure that some women are subjected to. A number of studies have indicated that suicidal behavior is impossible to predict with certainty, because suicidal behavior is a complex behavior with multiple causes. Scientists have found that some of these reasons are medical and some are social, such as gender, family problems, despair, depression, social isolation, drug and alcohol use. A group of research studies has confirmed that there is a relationship between despair and suicide. Despair is a negative expectation of oneself, in the present and the future times<sup>(11)</sup>.

### **3.5 Feeling Guilty**

The feeling of guilt is one of the most serious psychological problems that women who are vulnerable to late marriage age are exposed to. This is due to the contribution of some of them to their delay in marriage as a result of their many marital conditions or their continuous refusal. It can only be cured by eliminating it by changing it from a feeling of neurotic guilt to a normal, positive feeling of guilt that contributes to enhancing the moral and social behavior of the

individual. On the contrary, the feeling of guilt leads to anger and aggression, which leads to mental and physical illnesses<sup>(12)</sup>. The analysis of table (5) brings to light that this effect was answered by (113) females at the district level, speaking for (26.6%) of the total psychological effects. As for the district center and Al-Siba sub-district, (9.104) females answered, with a percentage of (24.5, 2.1% of the total psychological effects, while it constituted (7.8%) of the total effects.

By applying the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Analysis Test, it was found that the significant value of the effects distribution was 0.20%, and therefore we accept the null hypothesis that the effects of the delayed age of marriage in Abi Al-Khaseeb district are characterized by a normal distribution, with statistically significant differences that do not have a significant effect.

### **Suggestions**

1. Build up gatherings for girls who suffer late marriage age in order to help them fill the emotional side of their life reduce their feelings of psychological loneliness.
2. Facilitate ways to communicate with the official authorities related to social issues by girls affected by their fathers, which contributes to finding appropriate solutions.
3. Motivate private sector institutions, such as banks, to activate their responsibility, support marriage projects, and provide aid, support, and assistance to those about to get married and their families.
4. Assign curricula, programs and seminars aimed at educating young men and women about the importance of building a family and marriage and correcting misinformation about marriage.

### **Footnotes**

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2. Article, Cases of Tribal Desire, Supreme Judicial Council, website <https://www.sjc.iq>
3. Mr. Ramadan et al., Delinquency of the Young and the Crimes of the Adults, Modern University Office, Alexandria, 2022, p. 22
4. Mahdi Muhammad al-Qassas, Family Sociology, Amer for printing and publishing, Mansouriya, 2007, p. 94.
5. Muhammad Fathi Abu Ayana, Population Geography, Contemporary Foundations and Applications, Dar Al-Ma'arif Al-Jami'a, Alexandria, 2017, 117.
6. The personal interview with Dr. Maryam Abdel-Razzaq, a gynecologist, on 21/2/2023.
7. A personal interview with Dr. Moataz Abdel Aziz, on 13/2/2023.
8. A personal interview with Dr. Moataz Abdel Aziz, on 13/2/2023.
9. Marzouq bin Ahmed Abdul Mohsen Al-Omari, School psychological stress and its relationship to academic achievement and the level of mental health among a sample of secondary school students in Al-Alith Governorate, Master's thesis, College of Education, Umm Al-Qura University, p. 11.

10. The personal interview with some women who are late in marriage in Al-Hamza Al-Faww and Al-Siba district on 11/17/2022.
11. Dodah Alija, Suicide and suicidal tendencies and its relationship to alienation among a sample of university students\_Psychosocial study (field study) PhD thesis, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Algiers 2011, p. 224.
12. Dania Al-Shaboun, Guilt and its relationship to the variables of anxiety and self-confidence (a field study among students in the fourth and ninth grades of basic education in the official governorate of Damascus), PhD thesis in psychology, Faculty of Education, Damascus University, 2012, p. 256.

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### Letters and dissertations

1. Al-Omari, Marzouq bin Ahmed Abdul-Mohsen, School psychological stress and its relationship to academic achievement and the level of mental health among a sample of secondary school students in Al-Alith Governorate, Master Thesis, College of Education, Umm Al-Qura University, p. 11.
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### Scientific journals

1. Maashi, Muhammad bin Ali, The reality of the psychological, social and economic factors associated with the phenomenon of spinsterhood (delayed age of marriage), The International Journal of Specialized Education, Issue 7, Jazan University, 2017, p. 154.

### Personal Interviews

1. The personal interview with some women who are late in getting married in Al-Hamza Al-Fouq and Siba district on 11/17/2022
2. A personal interview with Dr. Moataz Abdel Aziz, on 2/13/2023
3. The personal interview with Dr. Maryam Abdel-Razzaq, a gynecologist, on 21/2/2023.

### Articles

1. Article, Cases of Tribal Marriage Veto, Supreme Judicial Council.

### Appendix 1

*In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

**Basra University - College of Arts**

**Department of Geography and Geographic Information Systems**

#### A QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

**Dear Sisters,**

**Greetings.**

The questionnaire form, at your hands, is one of the approved tools for collecting data for the paper study entitled (*Geographical analysis of the Causes and Effects of the Late Marriage Age for Women in the District of Abi al-Khaseeb*). I sincerely appreciate your cooperation and participation in this questionnaire.

With best of regards,

**Post Graduate Student (Master's): Haneen Dhiya Abdulwahhab Al-Rubayai**

**1. Do you think that marriage is a burden to your ambitions? YES NO**

**2. What are your main priorities in life? Education Work Marriage**

**3. Health Status: Good Disabled Sickness Chronic diseases**

**4. Does health affect the late marriage age?**

**5. Has anybody asked for your hand previously?**

If the answer is YES, mention the reason for refusal:

- Profession difference

- Age difference

- Religion or doctrine difference

- Family social rank

- Emotionally in love

- Family refusal

- Having no house

- Caring parents financially and

spiritually

- Family girls sequence for marriage

- Applicant for marriage is  forced

- Applicant for marriage is already having

- fear of unknown

- family reputation

- Applicant for marriage is not recruited by government

- Fear of responsibility

- Cultural and educational

difference level

- Fear of repeating others' experience

- Marriage phobia

**6. Has your engagement to other been terminated recently? YES NO**

If the answer is YES, please mention reasons:

- A.
- B.
- C.

**7. Does applicant for marriage impose some conditions on you?**

- Leave work
- Not allowed to leave house
- Travel abroad
- Leave education
- Change your life style
- Cut ties with female friends

**8. Are there any norms you keep in mind for the marriage applicant?**

- A.
- B.
- C.

**9. Conditions set by family?**

- Similar economic status
- Cultural similarity
- Social similarity
- doctrine, sect and class similarity

**10. As far as you are concerned, tell us about negative effects beyond late marriage age?**

- Late of pregnancy
- Moral corruption
- Accepting a man older than you
- Accepting a man who is already married, divorced or widowed
- Aggression and hatred
- Abortion cases
- Weakeness of social ties
- Hastened to marriage
- Accepting a man younger than you
- Overthinking and fear
- Committing
- Physical diseases

**11. What are your suggestion for meeting the late marriage age?**

- A.
- B.
- C.