



The Palestinian Center for Democracy &
Conflict Resolution
Information Department

Reasons Leading to Divorce in Gaza
Strip

(Perspectives of divorced Gazans)

Research & Studies Series
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Credits

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mohammed Abu El-Khair | Researcher |
| 2. Saeed Al-Maqadmah | General review |
| 3. Fadel Al-Salul | Statistics consultant |
| 4. Maha Itma | Translation |
| 5. Ramez Jaber | Editing |
| 6. A group of field researchers | |
| 13. Abdallah Al Salmi | Proofreading |

Introduction:

Divorce is considered one of the most serious social problems. It leads to the disintegration of not only the family, but also the texture of the society, all accompanied by numerous complications other than domestic problems, which could sometimes develop into disputes and loss of lives. This comes as a result of the tribal structure in the Palestinian society. Moreover, this has negative effects on children as well as divorced women since they will be viewed with wary eyes as inferior and collectively despised.

Sociologists did research the reasons of divorce in the Arab area; hereby we quoted some of their opinions on the subject. However, studies remain limited in the Palestinian society as they are only opinions of some interested individuals in domestic issues. So these studies did not exceed this to reach a serious research, which divulges the opinions and experiences of divorced persons themselves.

In light of the attention paid by the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR) and the strong relations with the courts which transfer cases of divorce to the Center for mediation between parties in conflict reaching 30-50 cases per month, and as the staff of the Family Service Program succeeds at about 65% in dealing with these cases, the rest of the cases still need more attention as they arise from very complicated and difficult contexts. Therefore, the Center had to conduct this study in order to examine the real reasons, dimensions and origins of these factors as a diagnostic entrance for helping cure this phenomenon especially that the percentage of divorce has been increasing enormously during the past years. Statistics of Religious Courts indicate that the percentage increased through the past ten years from 5% to 17% in the year 2001.

This is a serious indicator of the socio-economic effects resulting from divorce which will lead to exhausting the financial and structuralist resources of the community which makes it urgent to study this phenomenon as thoroughly as seriously.

Theory:

Reasons of divorce are various; there is not just one reason. However, there are some reasons, which manifest more than the others, which lead to divorce. (Barhoom 1968, P.202).

Some important reasons are:

1. **Early marriage:** It starts at an early age, before the complete physical, psychological, social and cultural growth of the individual. This means that the couples move promptly from adolescence to the conjugal life. In this case, minor couple lives with the family and follow its regime without any independence. The husband cannot take decisions and the wife cannot take over responsibilities and thus problems start. They cannot solve these problems and so continuing to live together becomes impossible. (Al-Majdalawy, 1999, P. 4)

2. **Family interventionism:** The family assumes an undisputed right to intervene in the life of the couple under the pretext that they care for the stability of their conjugal life especially when the couple lives with them in the family. This interference leads more to the instability of their life as the couples themselves are the best persons to solve their own problems. (Barhoom, 1986, P. 50)

3. **Polygamy:** Usually means more than one wife share the same house which denies the independence of the wife in her own house. This becomes worse when the number of children grows and when each wife tries to assign her son a privilege. (Al-Majdalawy, 1999, P. 9)

This phenomenon has several reasons like: the desire to have more children; the ignorance; the underestimation of women. Especially when a girl is brought up with the notion that she is a burden on the family. This, in larger families, forces girls to accept any marriage proposal in order to get rid of negligence and pressure they endure at home. (Abdo, 1980, P. 81)

This can be explained by the tribal extremism that grants the cousin (usually son of father's brother), the right to marry his cousin rather than other outsiders (who does not belong to the clan), without paying any attention to the necessities for building a successful matrimonial life.

(Abdo, 1980, P. 86)

There are some cases where the wife can ask for divorce on the basis of legal reasons. Some of these reasons are:

1. When the husband does not pay for his wife and the house, even when being able to do so, just to harm his wife;
2. Harm resulting from different reasons such as conflict, which affects the family in addition to the husband's illness, physical or mental;
3. Absence of the husband for more than one year without any legal reason;
4. Imprisonment of the husband;
5. Impotence: that the husband becomes unable to fulfill his sexual role properly as this is considered essential to maintain the psychological and romantic stability in the conjugal life.(Abdo, 1980, P. 855), (Majdalawy, 1999, P. 26)

Effects of divorce:

Although divorce might end some unresolved problems in the conjugal life, it is still a bad solution for its negative effects on the wife and children (Barhoom, 1988, P. 200).

Naturally, when divorce becomes a fact, feeling of insult grows in one side that he or she feels doing much for the other who became suddenly a foe. (Rawhia, 1982, P. 200)

Sometimes, feeling of sorrow and hatred among the couples may influence their decision forgetting all about their children: a parent may realize the importance of keeping his or her child's trust in

him or her for his well-being and for his future, but the other parent may ignore this fact. (Rawhia, 1982, P. 340)

Children will become victims of a failed marriage as they will be shared physically, mentally and psychologically between the father and the mother; this will tremor their psychology, and may result in an illness or deviation in their behavior. (Barhoom, 1988, P. 200)

Moreover, divorce leaves negative psychological and social repercussions on the wife; especially if she is not well-educated and cannot have her economic independence. Studies proved that divorced people are more stressed and depressed than married ones. Hereby they are likely to collapse physically in addition to being more subject to nervousness and psychological stress. (Dosouqy, 1998, P. 59)

Divorced women are more affected by depression, anxiety and anger. This behavior is reflected in their children who will never feel the security and peace they need. Consequently, they will lose their self-confidence and their social integration ability. (Hamza, 1998, P. 246)

The problem and the importance of the study:

During the field work of the PCDCR in the frame of the Religious Courts in the Gaza governorates and in light of raising percentage of divorce which reaches 15% in some governorates, it is necessary to shed light on divorce phenomena which appears obviously in the difficult circumstances in which the Palestinian society lives. The importance of this study returns to its outcomes that will be shown through the real reasons of divorce and through the psychological, social and economic effects on the divorced persons themselves, their children and their families.

Goals of the study:

1. Knowing the prominent problems between couples before resorting to divorce;
2. Determining the real reasons of divorce between divorced couples;
3. Knowing the way couples handled problems before divorce.
4. Identifying the nature of the third party intervention that conciliate between couples before divorce;
5. standing on the psychological, social and economical effects of divorce on divorced couples;
6. determining the psychological and social effects due to divorce on children and families;

These goals raise many questions:

Firstly, the main question of the study:

"What are the reasons of divorce from divorced couples' perspective in the Gaza Strip governorates?"

The main question leads to the following sub questions:

1. What are the types of problems, which used to be common in the divorced couples' conjugal life before divorce?
2. What are the real reasons of divorce?
3. How do the divorced couples deal with problems that occur between them before divorce?
4. Who is the third intervening party that conciliate between couples before divorce?
5. What are the shortcomings of the intervention of the third party, which did not prevent divorce?
6. What are the psychological effects of divorce on divorced couples?
7. What are the social effects of divorce on divorced couples?
8. What are the economical effects of divorce on divorced couples?
9. What are the variants concerning the effects of divorce on children?
10. What are the variants concerning the effects of divorce on the divorced couples' families?

The Study Location:

The Gaza Strip governorates are the study location during the period of January 2002 until May 2002.

The study approach:

The study uses the analytical descriptive approach.

The study population:

It consists of the total number of divorced cases that are registered at the Religious Courts in the Gaza Strip which is 1432 cases during the year 2002. The study sample was selected in the regular random method from the Religious Courts' records. The sample's size reached 380 cases with the percentage of 25.5% of the study population distributed among the governorates of the Gaza Strip. 365 questionnaires were received.

The following tables show the distribution of the sample:

Table (1): distribution of the study sample according to gender

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	161	44.1%
Female	204	55.9%
Total	365	100%

Table (2): distribution of the study sample according to the present age of divorced couples

Age	Number	Percentage
Less than 18 years	19	5.2%
Between 18-23	44	12.1%
Between 24-29	117	32%
Between 30-35	92	25.2%
Between 36-41	48	13.2%
More than 42	45	12.3%
Total	365	100%

Table (3): distribution of the study sample according to the divorced couples age during marriage

Age	Number	Percentage
Less than 18	120	32.9%
Between 18-23	157	43%
Between 24-29	66	18.1%
More than 30	22	6%
Total	365	100%

Table (4): distribution of the study sample according to their ages after divorce

Age	Number	Percentage
Less than 18	40	11%

Between 18-23	102	27.9%
Between 24-29	153	41.9%
Between 30-35	47	12.9%
More than 36	23	6.3%
Total	365	100%

Table (5): distribution of the study sample according to present marital status

Status	Number	Percentage
Married	147	40.3%
Still divorced	218	59.7%
Widow	----	---
Total	365	100%

Table (6): distribution of the study sample according to level of education

Level	No. of Persons	Percentage
Elementary	48	13.2%
Preparatory	75	20.5%
Secondary	143	39.2%
University	99	27.1%
Illiterate	---	---
Total	365	100%

Table (7): distribution of the study sample according to type of profession

Profession	N. of Persons	Percentage
Employee	73	20%
Private Sector	55	15.1%
Worker	56	15.3%
Unemployed	181	49.6%
Total	365	100%

Table (8): distribution of the study sample according to number of sons of the divorced person

No. of Sons	No. of Persons	Percentage
None	207	56.7%
One son	84	23%
Two sons	42	11.5%
Three sons and more	32	8.8%
Total	365	100%

Table (9): distribution of the study sample according to number of daughters of divorced person

Level	No. of Persons	Percentage
None	235	64.4%
One daughter	86	23.6%
Two daughters	23	6.3%
Three daughters and more	21	5.7%
Total	365	100%

Table (10): distribution of the study sample according to place of living

Place	No. of Persons	Percentage
City	139	38.1%
Village	33	9%
Camps of refugees	193	52%
Total	365	100%

Table (11): distribution of the study sample according to number of marriages before divorce

N. of Marriages	No. of Persons	Percentage
Once	343	94%
Twice	15	4.1%
Three Times	7	1.9%
Total	365	100%

Table (12): distribution of the study sample according to relationship between divorced persons

Type of Relation	N. of Persons	Percentage
Closed Relatives	92	25.2%
Relatives	89	24.4%
Strangers	184	50.4%
Total	365	100%

Tool of the study:

The tool was designed through revising the literal heritage of previous related studies and through the practical experience of the research staff. The study tool consists of 62 items divided into two main directions:

1. Reasons of divorce from divorced couples' point of view.
2. Effects of divorce.

Each main direction includes other sub direction related to the questions of the study.

Credibility of the study tool:

The tool has been presented to a number of socialists and psychologists at Al-Azhar University and the Islamic University. The tool was modified according to their recommendations and modifies.

Internal consistency of the study tool:

The credibility of the internal consistency was measured according to Alfa Kronobakh at 87%. This proves the validity of the tool for application.

Results of the study:

Question 1:

The following table shows the percentage of the responses of males and females from the sample on the types of problems, which used to be common in their conjugal life before divorce:

Table (13)

Type of Problem	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
No independent domicile	62	30.4%	48	29.8%
Difficulties in adaptation between couples	44	21.6%	35	21.7%
Lack of finance resources	37	18.1%	11	6.8%
Problems of sexual synchronization	20	9.8%	32	19.9%
Multi-authorities inside the same house	36	17.6%	12	7.5%
Gaps in the intellectual and educational levels	17	8.3%	26	16.1%
Other:				
1. Having girls only	23	11.3%	9	5.6%
2. Absence of one of the couples for a long while	12	5.9%	13	8.1%

PS.: One can choose more than one answer.

Question 2:

The following table shows the different responses of the sample on the variants of the real reasons of divorce:

Table (14)

Real Reason of Divorce	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
Interference of the family members in their lives	55	27%	37	23%
Failure in choosing the couple	40	19.6%	43	26.7%
I didn't participate at choosing my couple	37	18.1%	34	21.1%

Marriage of Exchange ⁽¹⁾	17	8.3%	12	7.5%
Undermaturity	11	5.4%	9	5.6%
Lack of understanding	29	14.2%	22	13.7%
Premature marriage	23	11.3%	19	11.8%
Sterility	12	5.9%	17	10.6%
Violence in all its forms	14	6.9%	—	—
Will for divorce from the family of the other side	8	4%	27	16.8%
Frigidity of one of the couples	14	6.9%	31	19.3%
Polygamy	9	4.4%	5	3.1%
Problems between extended families	10	4.9%	9	5.6%
Marriage between relatives	6	2.9%	5	3.1%
Treason of the other side	12	5.9%	3	1.9%
Illness of the other side	4	2%	6	3.7%
Other	2	1%	1	0.6%

PS.: One can choose more than one answer.

Question 3:

The following table shows the responses of the sample to the question on dealing with problems and solving them.

Table (15)

Dealing with problem	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
By dialogue between both sides	41	20.1%	65	40.4%
By asking a third party to intervene	108	53%	85	52.8%
Leaving the problem as it is	55	26.9%	11	6.8%
Total	204	100%	161	100%

Question 4:

The following table shows the responses of the sample to the question on the third party who intervene for conciliation.

(1) Marriage of exchange means that the family accepts to marry their daughter on the condition of marrying the sister of the husband to their son.

Table (16)

Dealing with problem	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
Members of the husband's family	37	18.1%	22	13.7
Members of the wife's family	33	16.2%	28	17.4%
Friends	31	15.2%	36	22.4%
Reputed men	49	24%	44	27.3%
Religious people	55	27%	36	22.4%

PS.: One can choose more than one answer.

Question 5:

The following table shows the responses of the sample to the question on the shortcomings of the intervention of the third party, which did not prevent divorce.

Table (17)

Shortcomings of third party's intervention	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
His bias to the second party	53	26%	39	24.2
His lack of understanding of the problem	35	17.2%	32	19.9%
His ignorance of the intervention techniques for solving problems	29	14.2%	28	17.4%
Multiple intervention parties	64	31.4%	58	36%
The Intervention party did not respect my needs and opinions	40	19.6%	48	29.8%
Unrealistic solutions	39	19.1%	51	31.7%

PS.: One can choose more than one answer.

Question 6:

The following table shows the percentages of the responses of the sample to the variants concerning the psychological effects of divorce.

Table (18)

Psychological Effects	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
Feeling of failure	38	18.6%	16	10%
Self underestimation	42	20.6%	13	8.1%
Anxiety and tension	36	17.6%	15	9.3%
Depression and tendency for isolation	54	26.5%	27	16.8%
Not ready to remarry	92	45.1%	24	15%

Loss of trust in the other sex	58	28.4%	20	12.4%
Feeling of guiltiness	32	15.9%	41	25.5%
Tendency for suicide	2	1%	-	-

PS.: One can choose more than one answer.

Question 7:

The following table shows the percentages of the responses of the sample to the variants concerning the social effects of divorce.

Table (19)

Social Effects of Divorce	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
Negative estimation of the society to me as a divorced person	91	44.6%	45	28%
Difficulty of accepting me in the family after divorce	107	52.5%	29	18%
Convulsion of my social position at work	73	35.8%	56	34.8%
Decrease of my liberty in building social relations	122	59.8%	26	16.1%

PS.: One can choose more than one answer.

Question 8:

The following table shows the percentages of the responses of the sample to the variants concerning the economic effects of divorce.

Table (20)

Social Effects of Divorce	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
Divorce created a financial burden for me	180	88.2%	130	80.8%
Divorce gave me the opportunity to liberate myself from financial responsibilities	18	8.8%	29	18%
Divorce didn't have any financial effects on me	6	3%	2	1.2%
Total	204	100%	161	100%

Question 9:

The following table shows the percentages of the responses of the sample to the variants concerning the effects of divorce on children.

Table (21)

Effects of Divorce on Children	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
Psychological disturbances	81	39.7%	48	29.8%
Behavioral disturbances	86	42.2%	43	26.7%
Educational problems	98	48%	56	34.8%

Physical and health problems	75	36.8%	36	22.4%
Social problems	77	37.7%	48	29.8%
Fear of children from the future	91	44.6%	50	31%

PS.: One can choose more than one answer.

Question 10:

The following table shows the percentages of the responses of the sample to the variants concerning the effects of divorce on both families.

Table (21)

Type of Problem	No. of females	Percentage	No. of males	Percentage
Divorce increased problems between both families	177	86.8%	136	84.5%
Divorce did not affect the relationship between both families	27	13.2%	25	15.5%
Divorce improved the relationship between both families	---	---	---	--
Total	204	100%	161	100%

Results Analysis:

Firstly; description of the study sample:

1. Table (2), which shows the ages of the sample, indicates that the percentage of divorce decreases with the increase of the age of the couples. This corresponds with the anticipation that the stability of the conjugal life reinforces the possibilities of comprehension and harmony between them.

2. Table (3), which shows the ages of the sample during marriage, indicates that the younger the couples are, the more divorce becomes likely to happen, reaching the percentage of 32.9% for couples less than 18 years, and 43% for those less than 23 years old.

3. Table (4), which shows the ages of the sample after divorce, supports the point of view of the second table that the younger they are, the more divorce is likely to happen to reach the percentages: couples less than 23 years, 38.9% and between 24-29, 41.9%.

4. Table (5) shows that those who didn't get married after divorce reached 60% of the total sample, which indicates that the chances of marriage for divorced people become less than those of unmarried ones, or that divorced people declined to repeat that experience.

5. Table (6), which is related to the level of education of divorced people, shows that the highest percentage of divorce is with couples who finished the secondary grade to reach 39.2%; then university graduated couples to reach 27.1% which indicates that the level of education augments the possibility of divorce as this group of couples does not accept to live within difficult situations.

6. Table (7) which shows the type of work of divorced people indicates that unemployment of the couples or of one of them adds to the opportunity of divorce to reach 49.6%. This corresponds naturally with the social norm that the difficult financial situation of the family leads to its failure.

7. Table (8) which is related to the number of children from the divorced person has a crucial role in reducing divorce opportunities, as the percentage reached only 8.8% for families of three children and more. As for families, without children, the percentage reached 56.7%. This proves the importance of having children to keep the unity strong within the family.

8. Table (9) which are related to the number of girls from the divorced person shows that having more than three girls in the family strengthens its unity, while the percentage of divorce increases if there are no daughters to reach 64.4%. This corresponds with the analysis of the previous item that having children in the family decreases largely the possibility of divorce. But it doesn't correspond with the false ideas that having girls in the family is a principle factor for divorce. This reflects the awareness of keeping the equality between boys and girls. Moreover, fathers are afraid of divorce which may affect their future chances for marriage, being daughters of a divorced mother.

9. Table (10) indicates that 52% of the sample is from the camps while 38% from the city and 9% from the village. However, we cannot conclude that the percentage of divorce in the camps is higher as the selection of the sample was random not according to the classes of the society. There was no comparison between this percentage and the total number of the population for the previous 3 target groups.

10. Table (11) indicates that 94% of divorced people in the sample were married once before their divorce. This does not mean, however, that the number of marriages is related to the opportunities of divorce.

11. Table (12) which shows the relationship between divorced couples, indicates that about 50% of marriages in the Gaza Strip rely on relative marriage which shows that the power of extended families inside the community is still functioning actively.

Secondly; questions of the study:

First Question: Types of problems, which were common in the conjugal life before divorce

1. Table (13) indicates that the highest responses of males and females of the sample about the types of problems, which were common before divorce, were related to the absence of independent dwelling. The percentage of females reached 30.4% and of males 29.8% which indicates that the independence of the couples decreases the possibility of divorce. Living with the extended family may be related to the economic difficulties to run an independent house in addition to the rule of the social traditions, which prefer to keep sons in the extended family even after their marriage.

2. The table shows that the type of problems related to difficulties of combination between the couples occupies the second grade in the responses of the sample, males and females, reaching 21.6%. This is due to the traditional marriage which is based on the mother of the husband who looks for a wife for her son. In this way, couples won't have the opportunity to know each other well before marriage.

3. Problems related to the lack of financial resources come in the third grade with females to reach 18.1%, while with males to reach 6.8%. This proves that the financial responsibilities fall always on the husband in the Palestinian society.

4. Problems related to the multi-authorities in the house have the approval of females of 17.6%, while with males to reach 7.5%. This shows the refusal of females to the interference of other authorities in their conjugal life as well as refusing the traditional authority of the husband in the society.

5. As for problems related to sexual accord, a high approval is noticed from males to reach 19.9% while with females reach 9.8%. This indicates that males believe that their conjugal problems are mainly related to the lack of sexual satisfaction which is a result of a decrease in the sexual education and the false beliefs of the sexual roles between couples.

6. The table shows too that 16.1% of males find that gaps in the intellectual and educational levels are one of the most important problems in their conjugal lives. AT the same time, 8.3% of females think the same. This shows that the notion of superiority of men is still influencing their mentalities and doesn't correspond to the reality as the percentage of university female students is higher than male students as shown by the statistics of the number of students in the local universities.

7. The other changes related to the types of problems didn't show high responses.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. The more the opportunities of education of the sample increase, the more the increases the responses on the following problems: absence of independent resident; sexual agreement; multi-authorities in the family and the high difference in the intellectual level.

2. The younger the couples are, the more we have approvals for difficulty in agreement between them, in addition to the lack of financial resources.

3. Results showed that sample members from camps agree highly on not having an independent dwelling, in addition to the multi-authorities in the house which can be related to the lack of resources in the camp for running an independent house and to the tendency of extended families to keep their sons in the same family.

4. The lack of financial resources responses were strong between females in the city as it's considered as an important factor related to problems in the family before divorce. This is due to the level of the women's expectations which are highly influenced by the city life and the financial situation of her family.

Second Question: The Real Reasons for Divorce

1. Table (14), which is related to the responses of the sample on the real reasons for divorce, shows that the highest percentage was related to the interference of the family in the conjugal life, to reach 27% with females and 23% with males.

2. The table shows that the bad choice for an spouse and not letting the other side choose his wife, or her husband in addition to the lack of understanding between the couples are the most important reasons for divorce. Females' responses reached (in the order) 19.6%;18.1%;14.2%, and males' responses reached (in the order) 26.7;21.1%;13.7% which reflects the influence of traditions common in the society and the way most marriages are done which doesn't give the opportunity for either of the couple to know the other before marriage.

3. Factors related to sexual frigidity in the other side and the wish of the family of the other side to divorce gave the following percentages: 19.3%; 16.8% with males, but didn't mark any high responses with females. This explains the way men put the responsibility of their failure on the other side as an excuse for their failure in their expected roles which explains their roles as the stronger according to the scales of the society.

4. No considerable responses were marked on the other factors in general even if it shows deterioration in the percentage of 'marriage in exchange' in the Palestinian society.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. Members of the sample who had a level of education higher than the secondary school, and who are more than 24 years old, reject completely the interference of the family in their life, and prefer to rely on their own for solving their problems.

2. Members of the sample who are less than 24 years old indicated that they were not asked to choose their spouse, in addition to the lack of comprehension between both of them which shows the danger of the influence of traditions on marriage.

3. The response of members of the sample from the camps, males and females, marked a higher percentage on the intervention of the family in their life and the failure in choosing the spouse in addition to not participating at this choice, than the percentage shown in the city or in the village. This is due to the influence of the family in the camps and their way of keeping their married sons under their control as a type of compensation for the loss of social security which they feel as refugees.

Third Question: How to deal with problems when they occur

1. Table (15) shows that the responses of the sample to deal with problems by asking a third party marked the highest percentage 53% with males and females. This means that both sides feel that they are not qualified enough to solve their own problems themselves but relying on a third party. This may be related to the pressure of the extended family which doesn't give the opportunity to the couples to solve their problems.

2. Males' responses on using dialogue marked a higher percentage than females' to reach 40% with males and 20% with females. This is related to the feeling that each one thinks that the problem is the responsibility of the other side.

3. Leaving problems without solution marked a high response with females to reach 26.9% while with males to reach 6.8% which goes with our previous explanation.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

Responses related to solving the problems through dialogue between the couples marked a high percentage with educated couples who are more than 29 years old. While this percentage decreases with couples who finished elementary or preparatory grades only and who are less than 24 years old. This is related to the level of education and maturity to accept the conjugal life among educated couples by comparing to those who are less educated.

Fourth Question: Parties who interfered for conciliation before divorce

1. Table (16) show that most of the members of the sample responded positively to the interference of the religious and important personalities as a third party in solving problems. The percentage of both males and females reached 50% which indicates that the traditional authority in the society is still dominating according to the common traditions.

2. There is a slight tendency of females to respond to the factor of the interference of the family of the husband to solve problems, and we have the same percentage for males and females concerning the intervention of members of both families for conciliation.

3. The intervention of friends marked a higher percentage with males' responses than females' to reach 22.4% for males and 15.2% for females. This can be explained by the stronger opportunities for the husband to build social relations and friends.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. There is a relation between the intervention of friends and the level of education with males and females: the more the person is educated, the more we have the chance of friends' intervention for conciliation.

2. It can be noticed that there is an increase of males' and females' responses concerning the intervention of the family at the age group less than 24 years, while the responses to the intervention of religious important persons increases at the age group more than 24 years old. This can be explained by the hierarchical intervention which starts by the family then goes to these personalities in case of failure.

Fifth Question: Shortcomings of the intervention of a third party

1. Table (17) shows that the highest percentage of responses of males and females was on the bias of the third party and the large number of persons who intervene to reach (in the order) 26% and 31.4% for females, and 24.2% and 36% for males. This means, on one hand, the lack of qualifications of persons intervening in solving the problems, on the other, the common tradition for multiple who intervene to solve the problems, in addition to the conviction that being aside from the problems means letting down the responsibility towards the other parts.

2. Responses concerning the absence of good methods for solving conflicts with persons who intervene and the weakness in understanding the real problem marked a good percentage especially with males to reach (in the order) 17.4% and 19.9%. While females' responses reached (in the order) 14.2% and 17.2%. This emphasizes our previous explanation for the first part which concerns the lack of qualified people to intervene in solving problems.

3. Responses concerning unrealistic solutions and the underestimation of the person who intervenes to the needs of the party marked a high percentage with males to reach (in the order) 31.7% and 29.8%, and with females 19.1% and 19.6%. This can be explained by the disagreement of husbands to solutions offered because of the lack of a real understanding of their needs, as most of the intervening persons are older and their estimation of the needs is different from the couples'. We can add that the intervening persons are not convinced to ask about delicate matters concerning sexual relations between the couples which are considered for them secondary if not luxury.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. We can notice that there is a relation between the level of education of the sample, the unrealistic solutions offered and the lack of knowledge and qualifications in intervention rules of the intervening persons. The more the sample is educated, the more they think that the solutions offered are unrealistic, and the people intervening are not qualified.

2. Sample members who are less than 24 years old marked the highest responses to the factor which concerns the bias of intervening persons and their multiple numbers which indicated the decrease of maturity of the couples to understand the solutions proposed in addition to the increase of the percentage of the number of persons who intervene with this age group.

3. Responses concerning the disrespect of the opinions of the party and his / her needs in case of marriage between relatives, especially with near relatives, where the pressure on the wife to accept the situation as it is increases, no matter how difficult it is, or how far from the intervening persons' understanding for her needs. This is the common tradition that the cousin wife should be always more patient.

Sixth Question: Psychological effects if divorce on divorced persons

1. Table (18) show that females' responses concerning the factors of feeling with failure and lack of self-appreciation in addition to stress, anxiety, depression and being unready to repeat this experience of marriage as a result of a loss of trust in the other sex, marked a higher percentage than males' responses, to reach (in the order): 18.6%, 20.6% 17.6%, 26.5%, 28.4%, 45.1%, while males' percentages reached (in the order): 10%, 8.1%, 9.3%, 16.8%, 15%, 12.4%.

This can be explained by the general weakness that women confront as a result of psychological pressures after divorce more than men, in addition to her difficult situation in the society as a divorced woman.

2. Percentages concerning the factor of feeling guilty as a result of divorce were higher with males' responses to reach 25.5%, while with females' responses reached 15.9%. This emphasizes the factors of the previous question of the injustice from which most women suffer especially after divorce, thus men feel that they participated, even partially, to this injustice.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. We can notice that there is a relation between the increase of the number of children and the increase of the psychological disorder especially with females. This means that the more they have children, the more they suffer psychologically, which is related to the decrease of marriage opportunities for her, in addition to her disability to raise her children alone when they are in her custody. Conversely, the percentage of feeling guilty with males increases from the sample who have the children in their custody and who are prevented to see their mother.
2. Divorced working women's responses to the factors of psychological disturbances are lower than those of women who don't work. This is because working women have more opportunities to build social relations through their work, while house wives remain at home without having this opportunity. Moreover, working women have a better opportunity for another marriage.
3. Psychological disturbances increase with divorced women who are more than 29 years old more than the other younger women. This is because of the lack of opportunity of another marriage especially that the society considers the age of women's spinsterhood starts from the age of 27 years old.

Seventh Question: Social effects of divorce on divorced persons

1. Table (19) show that females' responses to the factors concerning social negative effects after divorce and the difficulty of accepting divorce by the family in addition to the decrease of liberty of creating new social relations were much higher by comparison to males' responses, as the percentages of females' were in the order: 44.6%, 52.5%, 59.8%, while for males: 28%, 18%, 16.1%, which reflects clearly the difficult social situations from which women suffer after divorce comparing to men, reflecting the masculine culture of the society, the injustice which falls on women and the underestimation of divorced women by the society.
2. Responses concerning the instability of the social situation at work are equal with males and females to reach the percentage of 35%. This shows that men and women are highly affected by this social matter. This can be explained by the negative position for the failure of the family life in the working cultured groups as the society of work relates generally the professional successes to the success in the family. This indicates that social norms change positively at work environment than in the society in general.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. Responses concerning the decrease of the level of freedom in making social relations for females less than 35 years old, compared to those older than them, are high. This can be explained by the lack of opportunity of marriage for women after this age and the care of the family of the young divorced woman to keep her out of critical situations.
2. Percentages of responses of educated members of the sample, males and females, show the increase of the negative consideration of the society for them. This is related to their social situation before divorce and the higher hopes of the society for them to build a strong family.

Eighth Question: Economic effects of divorce on divorced person

1. Table (20) shows that the majority of the sample, males and females, marked the highest responses to the factor of the existing of a financial burden, to reach for females 88.2% and males 80.8%. This shows that divorce is an important factor in abusing the financial abilities in both sides.
2. Responses to the factor related to divorce giving the opportunity for the other side to liberate him/herself from the financial responsibilities were higher with males than females. Males' responses reached 18%, while females' reached 8.8%. This is because the husband takes over

the whole expenses of the house, in general, and after divorce he is free from some financial responsibilities.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. Responses of employed and unemployed males reached the highest percentage in what concerns the increase of a financial burden after divorce. This is due to the increase of their financial responsibilities as the income is so limited to be enough for all expenses following divorce: delayed dower⁽²⁾, furniture, etc.
2. Divorce is also a financial burden to house wives especially who has the custody of their children. This is because the adequate support decided by the court for the wife after divorce is not enough to complete the minimum of the expenditures of children.
3. Divorce formed financial problems on women in general because the family doesn't help with the expenditure which is considered in this case an additional burden with the presence of their daughter in the house.
4. Responses of males in the sample who were remarried marked a high percentage on the factor which concerns the high economic responsibilities which is due to the fact that males want, on the one hand, to prove themselves in the society that they can remarry, and on the other hand the too much expenditures for the disbursement of the wife for the dower and the price of furniture.

Ninth Question: Effects of divorce on children

Table (21) show that a high percentage of females' responses on the factor concerning the effects of divorce on children by comparing to those of males' responses. There is another high percentage for males and females on the following effects: psychological disturbances; behavioral disturbances; educational problems; social problems; health effects; fear from the future. Percentages for females' responses are (in the order): 39.7%, 42.2%, 48%, 36.8%, 37.7%, and 44.6%, while males' responses are (in the order): 29.8%, 26.7%, 34.8%, 22.4%, 29.8%, and 31%. This indicates the existence of disturbances and problems, which are due to the too much care of the mother for her children more than the father, and her worry for them and feeling that one day she will lose their custody.

The team of research admits the percentage 14% and more as a rule to link between the reasons of divorce with the varieties of the first part which shows the description of the sample of the research.

Conclusion:

1. The percentage of the responses, for males and females who have children, is the highest in what concerns the effects on the children. This is a natural result.
2. Responses of educated people from the sample, especially the employed ones, marked a lower percentage on the effects of divorce by comparison to their equals who are not as highly educated. This can be explained by the additional attention of educated people they give to their children and their follow up to reduce the effects of divorce on them.
3. Psychological disturbances factor and fear from the future marked the highest percentage by females who are between 23-29 years old by comparison to females' responses, who are less than 23 years old or older than 29 years old. This is due to the age of children who are still under their

(2) Dower is divided into two parts: the first is paid before marriage, and the second is delayed and usually paid in case of divorce.

mother's custody and her care for them, in addition to the fact that their vision for the future is not shaped yet.

4. There is a decrease in the percentage of working females' and males' responses on the factors of divorce effects on children by comparison to those who don't work. This can be explained by the availability of some of economical resources which prevent the complication of those effects on children from one hand, from the other hand, it increases the trust of working divorced males and females in themselves and their ability to satisfy the needs of their children.

Tenth Question: Effects of divorce on both families

Table (22) shows that responses of males and females from the sample showed a high percentage on the factor of the increase of problems between the families of the couples because of divorce. It reached for females 86.8%, and for males 84.5%. This can be explained by the fact that the Palestinian society is known by not separating things from each other which is part of its culture to evaluate things by white or black and never separates between attitudes and requirements in the different cases in general.

When comparing these results to the description of the study sample, we find that the responses of the divorced persons who are relatives on the negative effects of divorce on the relations of both families exceed the responses in the case of marriage between couples from different families.

This can be considered as a sign of the failure of relatives' marriage which is common in the society and which forms 50% from the study sample.

Conclusion of the study:

1. The effects of social factors like the intervention of the family in the conjugal life and the absence of the real participation of the children in choosing their future partners, in addition to the common social traditions in encouraging the marriage of relatives and the traditional engagement, all form the major factors for divorce in the Palestinian family. Consequently, the study research recommends implementing a comprehensive national awareness campaign on the dangers of this subject in order to put some limits to this phenomenon.
2. It has been noticed that the techniques of intervention for conciliation in case of problems which may lead to divorce, are far from being scientific, comprehensible for needs of both sides and not objective. This leads to the weakness of its effects. Thus, the society should develop better techniques and methods which are more adaptable to the needs in order to limit this phenomenon and this responsibility falls on the Palestinian organizations working in reform and conflict resolution through developing real efficient alternatives to help resolve their conflicts.
3. The economic factor occupies a major place as young couples don't always have an independent dwelling which obliges them to be submitted to the influence and pressure of the social habits; this obliges them to stay within the extended family.