

## **Abstract**

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**Research Title:** Correlation between Household Stability and Degree of Wife's Participation in Household Decision Making – Jeddah as Case Study

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### **Objectives of the study :**

The study is intended to investigate into the relationship between household stability and degree of wife's participation in household decisions, the researcher uses the descriptive analytical method, and the research was applied to a purposive sample size (258) of family housewives distributed on equal basis between working and non working group. In the study three Questionnaires were used to measure household stability and the degree of wife's participation to her husband in household decision making, and the factors affected it. The statistical analysis tests used in the analysis includes, T-Test, One Way Analysis of variances, Scheeffe Test, and person's Correlation Coefficient, in addition to that it uses frequencies, percentages, and averages.

The results have discovered that there is No significant statistical variations in degree of wife's participation in household decision making according to varied decision areas, except in area of housemaid hiring which shows statistical variance among working and non working group at ( 0.001) level, in favor of working groups, also there are significant statistical variations in decision making methods between couples in both working and non- working groups at significant level ( 0.001). also the results have shown that there is positive correlation between household stability and degree of wife's participation with husband in household decisions at significant level ( 0.01), and there is no statistical significant variation in household stability dimensions in both groups. The results also showed that there are significant statistical variations between socioeconomic variables and the degree of wife's participation to her husband in household decision making and household stability at significant level (0.001)

In the light of the findings reached, the study concludes, it is very important to raise the awareness of family on the importance of couples participation in household decisions, because it will enhance the consistency and stability of family, through different media channels and family concerned institutions, and paying attention to

design special program and plans that help household members to increase their income and their educational level through the efforts of the concerned institutions.

# ملخص البحث باللغة الإنجليزية

## **Introduction**

Family is considered the first basic building blocks in the construction of various human societies that it has the primary role in the building of any society through strengthening its unity and regulating conduct of its individuals which matches social roles in accordance with the variables of this age.(Abu-Sakeena-2002).

The family relations reveal variables of family functions and its internal and external relations and the most important influencing factors. As well, family relations identify the most important criteria upon which social roles are based for every member of the family according to the nature and the elements of that role, family efforts are concerted to achieve their objectives and satisfying the diverse needs on the light of their human and financial resources to ensure a good family and interactions climate and thereby achieve spouse and family compatibility(Tawfeeg,1996)

The family stability and cohesion is considered part of social stability and cohesion in general and that can not be achieved unless through interrelationships between the roles , positions , the community term and social customs.

The family relations were affected due to the work of wife and results vary from one group to another depending on cultural, economic and personal differences. Although women have entered the field of employment but they still bear the burden and responsibilities of the home, particularly child care, which requires time and much effort. Working women expanded the risk of family instability especially in a time when the men stick to the traditional role of working outside the home without sharing the woman the house responsibilities. (Rida 1998) .The research made by each of Ali and Burt(1988-1989- 1983) . The cohesive family is the family in which children feel emotional

convergence among them and freedom of expression is available among its members, it also linked to positive psychological functions of children. The families that suffer from fragmentation and lack of coherence and cohesion appear features of depression on its members in its various dimensions if compared with cohesive family members.

Conflicted families are characterized by their son's negative functions with all kinds of conflicts and its negative affects on self-esteem and identity growth of children on both males and females. Management essentially is a process of decision-making process which a process made by groups and individuals Life is a series of decisions taken by the individuals at home and in attitudes experienced by them.

Decisions Permeates in all administrative aspects of planning, organizing, following-up and implementing of the process. The individual or family success depends on managing, to a large extent, the family affairs on safety and decision making. (Nour & others 1994) through confronting daily continuous problems which individuals exposed to and work on solving them.

Mudanat studies (1996) clarified that the degree of wives participation was high in decision making among the family such as the decisions regarding home affairs and its managing in terms of buying food stuff, child care and clothes for house necessities and requirements as well as social visitations. The percentage of wives participation in decisions concerning organizing of house budget and ways of expending it is different from one house to another, also the decisions concerning the number of children and birth control in addition to those concerning loans and money investment. The study ensured importance of increasing the wife's authority in family decision making when she gets an independent income whereas there was no clear impact of the wife's income on

increasing her share in decision making concerning number of children and birth control.

Khanouq(2001) study showed the existence of a relation between wedding period variable and the wife's participation in decision making regarding it. Results showed a relation between the wife's age and her participation in decisions belong to her. The results of Alelaiwi study(2001) showed that husband's migration have increased roles and position of wife in the family . Sharing in decision making between husband and wife have reached relatively a high percentage in the Arabian family which indicates change of husband's situation specially upon the democratic attitude which is increasingly growing for the time being (Alshamasi,2004)

### **Secondly: The Problem of the Study**

Taking part in family decisions will boost family relations and create cooperation and harmony among its members. Thus, the family will be more able to accomplish tasks jointly. However, to achieve these goals, the goals should be defined with clarity and share of roles in order that maintain a positive attitude towards life and provide the family members with satisfaction and happiness.

Thus the main problem is derived from the following questions:

- 1- To what extent a wife takes part in the Saudi family decision-making and what factors that affect the degree of participation?
- 2- Does family stability cause to raise wife participation with her husband in family decision making?

### **Thirdly: Significance of the study**

- 1- The study will contribute in serving the society and pushing the development forward by enhancing the positive role of woman in both family and society. This will be done through leveraging her awareness

to assume positive participation in family decisions with an aim to maintain family stability and steadiness.

- 2- This study is the first of its kind in Saudi Arabia, particularly in the field of household management, so results will be of paramount benefits to Saudi family.
- 3- The study sheds lights on family bonds and signifies values of sacrifice, cooperation, participation, roles taking, responsibilities sharing which all contribute to create happiness, maintain psychological health and positive participation in life. Consequently, decision taking will likely to correct and scientific.
- 4- The study will contribute in enlightening wives through different media, especially programs that focus on women and their participation in family decisions.

**Objectives of the study :**

This research basically aims to disclose the relationship between family stability and the degree of participation of wife with her husband in family decisions taking, and that is through:

- 1- To disclose the degree of wife participation with her husband in decisions according to aims decision areas between working and non working.
- 2- Finding the variations between working and non working in taking family decisions methods between couples.
- 3- To disclose the relationship between family stability aspects and methods of participation in taking family decisions between couples in working and non working groups.
- 4- To disclose the relationship between family stability aspects and the degree of participation of wife with her husband in taking family decisions.

5- To identify the variations between working and non working in the degree of participation of wife with her husband in taking family decisions and family stability aspects.

6- To identify the relationship between the degree of wife participation with her husband in taking family decisions and socioeconomic variables such (income, couple level of education, family size, profession of husband, duration of marriage, and age of wife) in working and non-working groups.

7- To identify the relationship between family stability aspects and the socioeconomic variables such as ( family income, couple level of education, family size, profession of husband, duration of marriage, and age of wife) in working and non-working group.

#### **Fourthly: Hypotheses of the Study**

1- Degree of participation between couple varies according to variation of family decisions and as related to working and non- working groups?

2- There are some significant statistical variations in methods of taking family decisions between wife and husband as related to working and non- working groups.

3- There is positive correlation between family stability aspects and participation methods of wife with her husband in taking family decisions.

4- There is positive correlation between family stability and degree of participation of wife in family decision with her husband?

5- There are significant statistical variations in aspects of family stability among the working and non- working groups.

6- There are significant statistical variations between socioeconomic variables ( such as family income, couple educational level, size of family, profession of husband, duration of marriage and age of wife)



and the degree of participation of wife in working and non- working groups.

7- There are significant statistical variations between socioeconomic variables ( such as family income, couple educational level, size of family, profession of husband, duration of marriage and age of wife) and the family stability in working and non- working group.

### **Sixty: Methodology of the study**

The researcher uses the descriptive analytical method which based on the careful study of the phenomenon. This method focuses giving precise description and translates this description into qualitative and quantitative expressions. The qualitative expression describe the phenomenon and its features, while the quantitative description gives numerical description about this phenomenon or its volume and relation to other phenomena ( Abeedat et all 2006).

### **seventhly: Limitations of the Study**

The study is limited to the following:

#### 1-Geographical scope

Geographical scope is limited to Jeddah residential residents and its different socioeconomic levels.

#### 2- Population scope

The population scope is limited to the sample of the study ( 260) family housewives from both working and non working wives on equal basis. Duration of marriage is limited to the range of five years at least to ensure stability of marriage. The selection of samples was intestinally made.

#### 3-Time scope

Time scope of the study is based on the field study which will be conducted in the period from 25/3/1426h to 25/7/1426h

### **Eighthly: Instruments of the study**

- 1- General information format about family. It includes all variables of the study ( prepared by the researcher )
- 2- Questionnaire to measure household stability ( prepared by the researcher)
- 3- Questionnaire to measure degree of wife's participation in household decisions

Ninthly:

### **Ninthly: Procedures of the study**

To conduct the study in well organized format, the researcher has followed the following procedures:

- 1- Prepared the theoretical background from different sources and references relevant to the topic of the study.
- 2- Conducted personal interviews and open discussions with working and non working wives as preparatory step to questionnaire.
- 3- Prepared exploration surveys, including personal interviews with some households to test reliability of instruments.
- 4- Prepared questionnaire of household stability.
- 5- Prepared questionnaire of participation in household decisions
- 6- Submitted household stability questionnaires and participation questionnaire to the staff of Housing & Domestic Affairs Departments in Jeddah, Makkah and KAAU, and staff of Psychology Department of Faculty of Education in Makhwa, for evaluating reliability and consistency with objectives and questions of the study. A little correction was made on questionnaires according to staff remarks.
- 7- Conducted the most appropriate statistical analysis to reach findings and test hypotheses.
- 8- Discussed and explained findings
- 9- Formulated recommendations and suggestions

## **Tenthly: Terminology of the study**

### **Stability**

This term refers to adaptation of a person to his environment in a way which satisfy his needs to a certain acceptable degree. Stability helps a person to be balanced with his surroundings, satisfied and free of persistent tension ( Suleman 2004).

### **Household stability**

According to Mugahid ( 1972) household stability is an end result of a series of situations the family came across, rather than a certain passing attitude. It is not a persistent condition nor static situation, it is in fact a multidimensional situation affected by interrelations between family members at different ages. Thus, household stability varies from one family to another even in one family it takes different degrees.

Tawfeeq (1996) defines household stability as family bond which based on continuous interactive relations between members. These relations pave the way for children to satisfy their social, cultural and religious needs at different ages. Stability characterized by prevalence of love, cooperation and participation of all family members to manage household affairs. As a result, family members become more binding and close to each other.

### **Procedural definition**

Household stability is also defined in a sense that the marital relationship that based open-mind, well defined roles, cooperation and participation, is likely to succeed. It requires each couple to have the ability to adapt to mutual shortcomings, tolerate each other's faults in both good and hard times and sharing responsibility and face together the external challenges.

**Decision making :**

The decision is defined by (Raymond, 1990) as a stability on determined selection or a certain procedure. The decisions making is a daily and continuous facing of problems by the individual and his working towards solving them ( Fathi,2000). On the other hand the decision making procedure is the selection of working program consisting of available alternatives for solving a certain problem ( Iussier, 1990). Also the decision making is defined by ( Hawari, 1997) as a selection of certain conduct after a careful study.

**Participation :**

Participation means the minded and emotional obligation, and it was not restricted to only to body activity, therefore, the participation increasing the responsibility taking and the encouragement to conducting it through participation of the group, and it increases the relation between individuals and give them the opportunity for creation and innovation, and the participation happened due to living of the individual with groups and his interaction with them ( Goblan, 1991).

Procedural definition of household decisions:

Are defined as the suggested options from the part of couples due to their previous experiences, and their idea is stable on the best available suggestions which achieve the objectives and compliance with values, standards, and traditions, in the zone of available physical, human, environmental resources, and solving family problems while its management to different living dimensions. The family decisions includes, the decisions concerned with sons care, decisions concerned with family consumption and investment and family budget, in addition to decisions concerned with ceremonies , housemaid recruitment, families visits, and the decisions of managing family affairs.

## **Findings**

- 1- No significant statistical variations in degree of wife's participation in household decision making according to varied decision areas, except in area of housemaid hiring which shows statistical variance among working and non working group at ( 0.001) level.
- 2- There are significant statistical variations in decision making methods between couples in both working and non- working groups at significant level ( 0.001)
- 3- There is positive correlation between household stability and degree of wife's participation with husband in household decisions at significant level ( 0.001)
- 4- There are significant statistical variations in household stability dimensions in both groups
- 5- There are significant statistical variations in family stability dimensions among working and non group at significant level (0.001)
- 6- There are significant statistical variations between socioeconomic variables ( such as family income, couple educational level, size of family, profession of husband, duration of marriage and age of wife) and the household stability in both groups- working and non-working groups at significant level (0.001)
- 7- . There are significant statistical variations between family stability dimensions and the socioeconomic variables ( such as family income, couple educational level, size of family, profession of

husband, duration of marriage and age of wife) in both groups- working and non- working groups at significant level (0.001)

### **Recommendations**

In the light of the findings reached, the researcher concludes the following recommendations:

- 1- Raising the awareness of family on the importance of couples participation in household decisions, because it will enhance the consistency and stability of family, through different media channels and family concerned institutions.
- 2- Paying special attention to the importance of organizing symposia, lectures, and training courses to discuss family issues and conjugal relations which based on mutual understanding and clarity of roles, stressing values of participation, sacrifice and importance of resorting to tolerance in dealing with disputes. This will have a positive impact on household stability and consistency.
- 3- Children should be taught how to effectively participate in household decisions suitable to their understanding. This will help them be responsible, able to solve problems, enhance their educational skills and outclass activities.
- 4- Paying attention to design special program and plans that help household members to increase their income and their educational level. This would likely to support household stability and create positive interaction between family members and enable them to positively participate in decision

making and problem solving at both individual and family levels.