

The Challenges Facing the Widows How are the Head House in the Palestinian Society – Nablus Governorate as an Example

Alaa Abbas Abdalraouf Afana*

Student, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Aydin Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey

Abstract: This article aimed to identify the challenges faced by widowed and breadwinning women in the Palestinian community, "Nablus Governorate, as an example" in its various forms: the widow's view of herself and her role within gender roles, social, economic, and legal challenges facing the widowed breadwinning woman as well as her role in decision-making. The article also aimed to find out the suggestions of widowed and breadwinning women to confront and overcome these challenges in order to make their dual roles in the family and society successful. The study's community consisted of widows of breadwinners for their families in Nablus Governorate, who numbered twenty widows. The study was conducted with seventeen heads of breadwinners who agreed to be interviewed. The article's result showed that this diversity has several connections with these women by enhancing their self-confidence and the dual role that they play, which leads to self-enhancement and granting energy from strength. While the second part of the widowed and breadwinning women has been shown to have a sense of weakness, inferiority, and refraction, living in extended families who impose its hegemony on the breadwinner and her family, the negative view of society towards her, the reinforcement of the stereotype of women in society, the relationship of exploitation, harassment, discrimination with men, and the existence of various difficulties as a result of the widow's practice of her dual roles.

Keywords: widowed women, social challenges, economic, legal, gender.

1. Introduction

Women's issues have been paid special attention in the last decade of this century to raise their cultural, social, and political levels and highlight their important role, both within the family and within society. The economic, political, cultural, and social conditions of Arab societies in general and Palestinian society, in particular, have played a role in giving greater attention to certain groups that suffer most, including women, in order to give them greater strength and ability to cope with their needs within their society, allowing them to interact positively and constructively within them (House, 2001).

This, of course, contributes to the production of a "popular culture" about women. Invites the image of the weak creature from the first heritage needing guardianship and preservation, heritage in all its forms, customs, values, ideals, pronouncements, and wisdom. slow status in society (Glejan,

1982).

Palestinian women's social rights as human rights based on the legitimacy of human rights are no different from those granted to other women in the world. However, the societal reality of women confers discrimination according to the different economic, social, cultural, and legal situations; the tragedy that had befallen the Palestinian people was painful, homeless, and dominated by occupation, settlement, and confiscation of land and property. Moreover, the wars, attacks, and repression against the Palestinian people have impacted the reality and conditions of Palestinian women. s rights ", including the realities of their social and legal rights (Al-Madhoun, 2001).

The loss of a husband constitutes a major crisis for the family, especially in the case of children, and is, therefore, a challenging situation not only on the material level by losing the main source of income but also on the educational level because the family complements its role by integrating the roles of all its members, and also by losing psychological effects on the wife and children.

Although widowed women have their special and exceptional status, which was supposed to be taken into account in the Basic Law (as the main and fundamental reference), as it precisely defines the rights and freedoms of all groups of society, the Constitution can only be truly democratic if it relies on human rights reference. s status as the State's supreme law, The State can be democratic first, only with a democratic constitution. Therefore, the Palestinian Basic Law must respect women's rights whether they are widows, housewives, or working like other Arab and international constitutions (Al-Madhoun, 2001).

2. Review of Literature

Al-Kandari says (1992:219): When marriage ends with the death of one of the partners, the prevailing belief that without the death, the marriage will continue, so the other partner is seen as a person who has not only lost a loving human being, but is seen to have ended a marriage relationship, and that death does not end the marriage bond as the divorce ends; Divorce involves a long period with feelings of alienation and is a prelude to the

*Corresponding author: alaa.afana21@gmail.com

termination of a marriage, whereas it is not the case in the event of the death of one of the spouses; Where there is no period of transition, a widower is usually a husband or wife who enjoys one day's acceptable marital role and continuous relationships and on another day becomes a widower or widower without prejudices, ending all marital relationships formed over a long or short period.

The protection and development of human rights and fundamental freedoms are the primary responsibility of Governments. International human rights instruments affirm that all political, civil, social, and economic rights are universal and interrelated, as expressed in the "Vienna Declaration" and the program of Action of the International Conference on Human Rights (Musa, 2008).

Women's discourse as individuals and within the framework of women's movements has begun to claim their rights from the perspective of their humanity - being human beings like men. Moreover, they contribute to the management of their societies like men; the fact that human rights charters deal with a large number of rights is particularly relevant to women, the family, and children's education ", as well as the fact that many women have received similar and sometimes superior education to that of men, And if women have succeeded in many countries of the world in achieving some of their rights based on human rights, the right to work, to vote and to stand for political office, but she has not realized that the realization of these rights on the ground does not depend solely on the granting of the right. s political, economic, social, and cultural structures to enable the realization of these rights (Musa, 2008).

Most of the literature on the subject indicated that the extent of the roles imposed on the widow doubles by losing her husband (Gilbosch, 2016), where the psychology of the widow addressed the roles she plays in several contexts, including addressing the psychosocial effects in isolation from the economic role, and others who focused on the aspect of solidarity and material support for her (Shirawi, 2012), especially local studies, and some researchers such as Neha Bayoumi (2004) examined women's idealism in male personality in order to impose power and control over the other, thereby reinforcing the masculine dominance inherent in them subconsciously "women tend to assimilate to male roles to exert bullying over others, return violence to the husband or abandon their female components to lurch (Byumi, 2004).

3. Methods

The qualitative research curriculum and analytical descriptive method will be used as the qualitative curriculum cares for and examines all the details of the mother's widow. The use of this approach also contributes to a better analysis of the nature of the widow's dual roles within the Palestinian family in the context of understanding the roles of loss and the process that the researcher is experiencing in order to gain a wider and inclusive understanding of their roles in the light of social and legal challenges.

The curriculum is also interested in examining the most important social and legal challenges of widows and their psychological, social, and economic impact on them by

conducting extensive interviews with researchers. Information obtained from them is the basis for the analytical material.

The article sample (transferred to the study community) will be intentional. It will be 20 widows from Nablus governorate and snowball by asking a series of questions in several interviews s study ", which will be conducted with cases to which the conditions of the study are applicable, since because of the paucity of this study, the researcher has not found statistics on this topic of study, Therefore, through this study, the researcher will seek to find ratios and statistics of the number of cases to which the study conditions in Nablus Governorate apply. And then, the sample will be selected depending on the number of available cases, and a variety of samples will be selected, including widows with children; the study will be limited to the governorate of Nablus as a model for such a study to collect qualitative information useful in achieving the research's objectives.

4. Analysis and Findings

Through a review of the challenges facing the widow of the breadwinner in Palestinian society, the "Nablus Governorate Model," widows of the breadwinner family suffer considerable challenges in exercising their dual roles. (The role of men and women), which impedes their progress and development. This is why we are interested in studying the situation of widowed women with families and highlighting differences and agreements among them. This study examined the widow's self-sustaining perception and role in gender roles of the social, economic, and legal challenges facing widows.

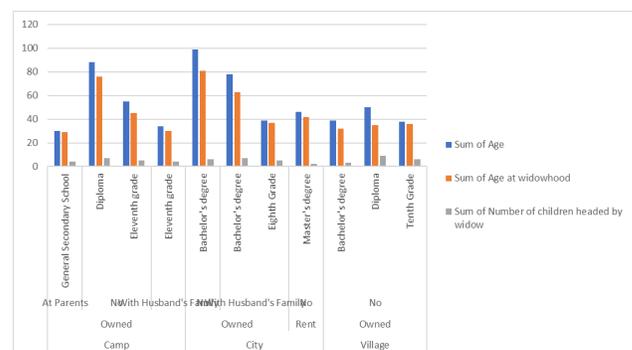


Fig. 1.

The study results showed problems stemming from a male and female view of the widow's breadwinner's work. Of compassion, the dominance of masculine customs, traditions, and culture, so that others do not appreciate what they do to make a living for their children, And that society's perception has a pitiful view, as well as violence, wounding, exploitation, and sexual harassment, Criticisms and interventions of the community for not adhering to several legitimate deaths of four months and ten days and exercising their daily lives and the interventions of the husband's family, social constraints and the burden of responsibility placed on the widow.

Widowed women have created a strategy that helps them defend themselves, even though they are females who work as breadwinners.

The results showed that widows with families face legal challenges related to their children's guardianship and their custody and legal proceedings related to the said matters, 53% of women 9 out of 17 dependent widows indicated that civil society institutions did not contribute their support or empowerment.

Finally, the results also showed that widows with dependents had economic challenges, such as their difficult economic situation, difficulty in spending on the family, and the widow's non-payment of the minimum wage at work, the proportion of widows trying to overcome economic challenges by relying on themselves to work was 58.8% or 10 out of 17 women.

5. Conclusion

The deprivation of inheritance represented the social challenges facing the widow and breadwinner woman for fear of transferring her daughters to another family and, so, the transfer of the family's wealth to another man. Social challenges also include the mistreatment of the widow's children as a result of the distinction between children, disagreements between the mother and her children, interference of the husband's family, the husband's family's lack of understanding of the nature of the woman's crisis when she lost her husband. In addition, the widow suffers from being held responsible for the suffering of her children and her inability to manage the home; this is due to the multiplicity of roles she plays inside and outside the home and the difficulty of coping with the pressures of life. Losing a husband leaves a heavy burden on a widowed woman, represented by her multiple roles, her many responsibilities, and her economic

dependence on others; all make her unable to cope with the pressures of life for the economic challenges they are represented in their difficult economic situation, the difficulty in spending on the family, and the lack of minimum wages at work, which aggravates the economic challenges for her and her family.

The legal challenges facing the widow are related to the guardianship over the children, their custody, and the legal procedures related to the abovementioned matters. Education and work are considered sources of strength for the widowed and breadwinning woman, as they have increased her ability to make various decisions, whether routine or strategic, for her and her family.

References

- [1] Al-Madhoun, S. (2010). Right to information in the Middle East and North Africa region.
- [2] Al-Shirawi, A. (2012). The widow's approach to daily psychological stress and his relationship to psychological toughness. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Sciences-Bahrain*, Maj, 13, 1.
- [3] Al-Tikroui, O. (1998). *Explanation of Personal Status Law*. Dar al-Culqah Library for Publishing and Distribution, Amman-Jordan.
- [4] Bayoumi, N., (2004). The problematic relationship with men between mutual support and contradiction.
- [5] Gilbosch, H. (2016). "The Causes and Effects of a Widowed Woman's Marriage to the Brother of a Deceased Husband from the Perspective of the Widow Herself" Nablus Governorate Model."
- [6] House, J. S., et. al. (2001). Psychological Adjustment to Sudden and Anticipated Spousal Loss among Older Widowed Persons. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Science*. vol. 56B, no. 4, S237–S248.
- [7] Ismail, Z. (1982). *Anthropology and human thought*. Okaz Libraries Publishing and Distribution Company, Jeddah.
- [8] Moses, A. (2011). Psychological needs and self-conception and their relationship to the level of ambition of students of the University of Al-Azhar in Gaza in the light of the theory of self-determinants.