

The phenomenon of bachelorhood in Algeria today: demographic and social implications

العزوبة الرجالية في الجزائر، واقعها اليوم وآثارها ديمغرافيا واجتماعيا

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Abstract:

This study seeks to elucidate the phenomenon of bachelorhood in Algerian society and its demographic and social implications. Given that, most conducted studies focused on spinsterhood and its impact but not bachelorhood. Celibacy and spinsterhood have always been negatively related to women owing to their consequences on marriage and fertility. Various data indicate a rising age of marriage among Algerian men, resulting in a substantial increase in bachelorhood rates. This trend inevitably leads to far-reaching consequences at both individual and societal levels. This research aims to explore the nature and extent of this phenomenon and elucidate its implications.

Keywords: Bachelorhood, causes of bachelorhood, demographic and social impact of bachelorhood.

ملخص : يهدف هذا البحث إلى توضيح واقع العزوبة الرجالية في المجتمع الجزائري وآثارها ديمغرافيا واجتماعيا ، ذلك لكون غالب الدراسات اهتمت بعنوسة النساء وآثارها دون الرجال، فقد اقترنت دائما العزوبة والعنوسة بالمرأة نظرا لانعكاساتها السلبية على ظاهرة الزواجية والخصوبة. فقد بينت المعطيات المختلفة ارتفاع سنّ زواج الذكور في الجزائر، وبالتالي ارتفاع نسب العزّاب بشكل كبير لأسباب مختلفة، وهذا ما يتسبّب لا محالة في آثار على جميع المستويات وظهور سلوكيات وظواهر جديدة قد تؤثر على الفرد في حدّ ذاته والنسق الاجتماعي ككل، سيحاول هذا البحث التعرّف على واقع هذه الظاهرة وتوضيح آثارها.

كلمات مفتاحية : العزوبة الرجالية، أسباب العزوبة، آثار العزوبة ديمغرافيا واجتماعيا.

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1. Introduction

Marriage serves as the bedrock of family life, providing a socially sanctioned environment for procreation and emotional support. Within the Islamic context, marriage is not only a religious obligation but also a cultural norm that contributes to societal cohesion and stability. A union fulfilling both biological and social needs.

Marriage is considered a general demographic phenomenon in all Arab societies, as most adults, whether men or women, end up getting married. The increasing trend of delayed marriage and rising rates of celibacy in Algeria is causing growing concern. These demographic shifts, driven by urbanization and rapid social changes, have far-reaching implications for individuals, families, and society as a whole, potentially leading to social instability and breakdown. Globalization has shaped the attitudes and values of young people, altering their perceptions of life and marriage. Consequently, the age at which men marry for the first time has significantly increased, reaching an average of 34 years. These changing attitudes have also transformed the institution of marriage, with couples now commonly meeting before tying the knot.

Many think that celibacy is not as significant and impactful issue for men as it is for women, yet. Bachelorhood remains a concern.

Contrary to the common belief that celibacy is a greater concern for women. We tried in this study to find out: what is the state of bachelorhood for men in Algerian society, what are the factors contributing to it and what are the social and demographic consequences?

We will first introduce the concept of bachelorhood, its types, and its main causes. Then, we will present the most significant statistics from general population censuses and national surveys focusing on relevant indicators

Importance of the research:

Since 1966, the average age at first marriage in Algeria has continued to rise, increasing from 23.8 years for men in 1966 to 33.9 years in 2019.

Starting with the 1998 General Population Census data, early marriage has disappeared from the Algerian landscape, replaced by delayed marriage, bachelorhood, and even lifelong singleness, a new social phenomenon in our

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society. Data from general censuses and surveys clearly show a rise in bachelorhood rates, which should be considered a demographic concern. Although spinsterhood is frequently discussed in the media and academic studies, bachelorhood is equally important as it affects social, psychological, and fertility aspects, and exacerbates the issue of spinsterhood.

Research goals:

The media places a significant emphasis on spinsterhood its consequences in Arab society. Academically, most studies focus on spinsterhood and its psychological, social, and demographic impacts, such as declining fertility rates.

The media and academic studies have rarely touched on bachelorhood and its effects. Given the significant psychological, social, and demographic, implications of this issue for individuals, families, and society, we have decided to investigate this issue. This research aims to analyze and understand the causes, effects, and broader societal and demographic impacts of bachelorhood in the Algerian society.

Research methods and tools:

In this research, we adopted the descriptive method using a number of data obtained from general population censuses and national surveys, as well as the results of some demographic studies.

2. Research concepts:

• Concept of celibacy

Celibacy, or voluntary singlehood, refers to the state of being unmarried, particularly when an individual has made a conscious decision not to marry. (Badawi, 1978, P54).

Bachelorhood specifically refers to a man who remains unmarried beyond the typical age for marriage in a given society.

There are two types of celibacy:

a-Involuntary celibacy: it occurs due to coercive or compelling circumstances that prevent an individual from marrying, often due to factors beyond their control. Examples include economic factors such as high unemployment rates, low wages, housing shortages, and high dowry; religious factors, such as prohibitions against marriage for certain religious

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groups; social factors, such as societal pressures to marry within a specific family or social class; or legal restrictions, such as prohibitions on marriage for individuals with certain medical conditions.

b-Voluntary celibacy: it is a conscious choice to remain unmarried without any external pressures. The reasons for voluntary celibacy can be personal or psychological, such as a preference for independence, a desire for personal achievement, or narcissistic tendencies. Other factors may include exposure to Western cultures that promote individualism and delayed marriage.

3. Causes for celibacy

Since the 1980s, Algeria has witnessed a delay in the age of marriage among young people, leading to a widespread phenomenon of bachelorhood. This has posed a significant multifaceted threat, primarily attributed to the following factors:

A-Personal factors:

Personal factors behind the celibacy of young people in Algerian society are not the only or the most important if we know that even the affluent individuals are postponing marriage due to challenges such as unemployment. Many young people find it difficult to secure stable employment to save for marriage. Additionally, high dowry costs, the expense of weddings, and the rising cost of living place a significant financial burden on young people, discouraging them from marriage. Furthermore, the housing crisis exacerbates the problem as most young people aspire to independent living after marriage.

b-Seeing marriage negatively:

Many young people perceive married life as being fraught with problems and endless responsibilities towards their spouses, children, and household. They view marriage as a constraint and limitation to their freedom. In addition, the youth's education and the nature of the family, professional and social environment in which he is living may be a reason for these perceptions, and the fear of failure in the marriage experience remains a reason for his bachelorhood. Especially if one of their family members or friends had a failed marriage experience, so they become fearful and anxious and overlook marriage and adopt a life of celibacy.

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c- High standards for a potential spouse:

The increasing emphasis on personal qualities such as physical attractiveness, intelligence, and education has led many young men to develop high standards for their future wives. These preconceived notions can make it difficult to find a suitable match and may lead to prolonged celibacy until the age of thirty or forty if the ideal partner is not found. Additionally, the increasing emphasis on modesty and virtue among young women has made the search for a suitable spouse even more challenging for some men.

d- Openness and promiscuity:

The profound transformations that Algerian society has undergone and the development of various modern means such as television programs and social media have allowed for openness and the spread of promiscuity everywhere in light of liberation. It facilitated the initiation of premarital relationships and the ease of obtaining sexual pleasure free, and marriage is no longer a goal for many young people.

The young man, who has a lot of cohabitation and contact with women under the name of friendship between the sexes, or has had one or more failed romantic experiences, will become a person who is suspicious and lacks confidence in the opposite sex, and believes that there is no chaste girl, preferring a life of celibacy to marriage.

e- Setting priorities before marriage:

Many young people today prioritize various personal and professional goals before marriage, such as pursuing advanced degrees, climbing the career ladder, and achieving financial stability. These aspirations often involve delaying marriage until their late thirties or even forties. By this time, individuals may have become accustomed to the single lifestyle and may develop apprehensions about the commitments and responsibilities of marriage.

4. The reality of bachelorhood in Algeria

The growing prevalence of bachelorhood in Arab societies, particularly in Algeria, has become increasingly noticeable and is no longer considered

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taboo. This is no longer a passing trend but a significant social phenomenon that demands attention, study, and understanding. It has become a widespread issue, affecting both urban and rural areas across the country.

The way Algerians view marriage has changed dramatically in recent times. Attitudes towards marriage have evolved, with individuals marrying at later ages. Long periods of being single are now more common and accepted, and even lifelong celibacy has become more socially acceptable. This represents a notable shift from the previously prevalent societal norm of universal marriage.

4.1 Evolution of the age at first marriage for men:

Any discussion of bachelorhood in Algeria is intrinsically linked to the evolving patterns of marriage, particularly the age at which men first marry. This indicator provides valuable insights into broader changes in marriage trends.

Table 1. The evolution of the age of first marriage in Algeria between 1966 and 2019

Area	Rural		Urban		Total	
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Census						
1966	23	18	25	19	23.8	18.3
1977	24.3	19.8	27.3	23.1	25.3	20.9
1987	26.4	22.3	28.8	24.8	27.7	23.7
1998	30.3	26.9	31.9	29.9	31.3	27.6
2008	32.4	29.5	33.1	28.9	32.9	29.1
2019	33.3	27.0	34.3	27.3	33.9	27.1

Source : O.N.S. Algerian statistical yearbook, n°30, results (2010-2012), P24. M.I.C.S 6, P127.

The age at which Algerian men first marry has shown a significant upward trend over the years. This change is due to the social, economic, and cultural transformations that Algeria has experienced.

As recently as 1966, the average age at first marriage for men in Algeria was only 24 years, and 18.3 years for women. This figure has steadily increased

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over the years, reaching 34 years for men in 2019. This clearly shows the significant changes that have taken place in Algerian society.

The age at first marriage for men in Algeria has historically varied between urban and rural areas. From 1966 to 1987, men in urban areas tended to marry at a significantly older age compared to their rural counterparts, with a difference of between 2.4 and 3 years. However, since 1998, this gap has decreased to less than a year, and at most a year and a half. This indicates profound shifts in the marriage behaviors of Algerian youth, and suggests that male celibacy has become a widespread phenomenon across the country, as previously stated.

4.2 Marriage patterns among Algerian men:

Since 1966, there has been a significant decline in marriage rates among Algerian men. The proportion of married men decreased from 71.4% in 1966 to 30.3% in 1998, leading to a corresponding increase in the number of unmarried men. However, between 1998 and 2008, there was a notable uptick in marriage rates, accompanied by a decrease in the proportion of unmarried men. This trend was particularly evident after 2000, coinciding with improvements in Algeria's security, social, and economic conditions following the 'black decade'.

However, the decline in marriage in Algeria resumed in 2014 and continued at an accelerated pace in 2020. Civil registries recorded 285,000 marriage in 2020, representing a decrease of more than 10% compared to 2019. While there was a slight increase in 2021, with 315,000 marriage contracts registered, the decline resumed in 2022 and reached 278,664 cases in 2023. This decrease has brought the marriage rate down to 6.0% in 2023, similar to the rates seen in the early 2000s.

The crude marriage rate in Algeria decreased from 9.55% in 2007 to 6.01% in 2023 (ONS: Algerian Demography 2020-2023, No.1030), leading to a rise in the proportion of unmarried individuals. This trend is evident in the evolution of the single population, as observed in the data from the first Algerian census conducted in 1977 to the most recent Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS6) in 2019.

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Table 2: The trend in the proportion of unmarried individuals by age and sex.

Year	Census 1977		Survey of 2024	
Gender \ Age	Male	Female	Male	Female
15-19	97.5	76.1	99.6	96.3
20-24	71.0	31.0	98.7	75.0
25-29	29.7	10.9	85.8	41.9
30-34	08.5	03.6	55.9	25.8
35-39	03.7	01.8	30.0	23.3
40-44	02.5	01.3	17.0	20.9
45-49	01.9	01.0	08.2	15.3
Total	37.1	21.8	43.9	31.9

Source: R.G.P.H, 1977 and M.I.C.S6, 2019

The data reveals a dramatic shift in marriage patterns among men. In 1977, only 30% of men aged 25-29 were not married, while by 2019, this figure had soared to nearly 85.8%. Likewise, the proportion of unmarried men aged 30-34 more than doubled, from 9.0% in 1977 to over 55.9% in 2019.

Similarly, for the 34-year-old age group, the proportion of single men, which was only 4% in 1977, had increased to 30% by 2019, meaning that one-third (1/3) of men remained single at this age

This significant increase in the number of unmarried men poses a serious demographic risk, particularly within these two age groups where marriage rates should be highest. These are the prime reproductive years, when men are most likely to settle down, start families, and reach their full potential.

The trend of delayed marriage is further evident among men in their late thirties. In 2019, 17.0% of men aged 40-44 and 8.2% of those aged 45-49 remained unmarried, compared to only 2.5% and 1.9% in 1977. This data indicates a significant shift towards late marriage among men.

5. Effects and consequences of bachelorhood:

The low crude marriage rates and the increasing prevalence of bachelorhood in Algerian society can lead to significant negative consequences

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demographically and socially. We attempt to explain them in the following points:

5.1 Demographic consequences of bachelorhood:

Male fertility can reach 70 years, allowing man to prolong his bachelorhood for as long as he desires. Additionally, men prefer marrying women who are significantly younger, according to the findings of six (06) studies in this area. Men initially prefer a slightly younger wife, but as they age, they tend to prefer a wider age gap. (Rachdi 2021, P103).

This trend may lead many women to remain due of the lack of marital opportunities. This imbalance will affect the age groups where fertility is biologically supposed to be at its peak, especially with the arrival of a large number of younger and more likely to marry new generations. Demographic studies have shown that since the end of the 1990s, the decline in marriage has contributed to a significant decline in fertility, which is thought to be a factor in maintaining the rate of generational replacement and preserving human resources.

This preference will also cause an imbalance between the number of single men and women seeking marriage, i.e. we will have relatively more women than men, thus creating an imbalance in the marriage rate in Algeria, and these groups remain a demographic threat that needs to be tackled further.

Bachelorhood may lead to a significant shift in social restructuring patterns and institutions. Since the family is the building block of healthy societies, a decrease in the number of families because of a decrease in the number of married couples will lead to long-term population decline and the aging of society. So, how can bachelorhood contributes also to the reduction and decline of fertility?

If we consider celibacy defined as remaining unmarried until the age of 50 or more from a demographic perspective, we find that it is on a constant rise. After representing 1.9% in 1970, it reached 8.2% for males in 2019. Those who reach this age usually abandon the idea of marriage and do not pursue it. Even if they decide to marry at this age it will be difficult for them to find a woman who agrees to marry them, and they may not care about having children. They may have lost their passion and ability to adapt to family life,

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being used to a single life. They may get married only to satisfy their parents' wishes or out of fear of societal judgment.

This will affect fertility especially when it comes together with the increasing rate of spinsterhood. In Algeria, it increased from just 1 percent to more than 15 percent between 1977 and 2019.

Thus, these two phenomena (both bachelorhood and spinsterhood) will exacerbate the decline in fertility rates. Moreover, the prevalence of extreme singleness among men contributes to the emergence of new family structures, such as one-person households. Individual economic and financial independence can serve as another major push.

Another demographic impact of bachelorhood for men is a decrease in libido with aging. As they age, men's testosterone levels decrease, and thus their libido decreases. Unlike women, men do not experience celibacy in the same way. They may resort to satisfying their sexual needs through different means, which can affect their overall fertility. Scientifically even for men, fertility is age-related, peaking at certain ages and declining thereafter.

Furthermore, the significant age gap between children and a father who marries later in life will create a generational divide. The father's loss of passion and enthusiasm, due to the significant time and energy required to raise a family and maintain a work-life balance, can be exacerbated by advancing age and an established lifestyle.

This disparity can lead to intellectual and behavioral conflicts between the father and his children.

This is what demographers have observed and was confirmed by many demographic and epidemiological studies, and due to the lack of studies conducted in Algeria to know and confirm this equation, we will list some studies that explain this relationship in some foreign countries pending the conduct of such studies in Algeria. The results of many studies have shown the impact of bachelorhood on men's health. We mention some of them:

Firstly, a recent Danish study titled prolonged bachelorhood affects Men's Health, published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, revealed the following findings:

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Men who have experienced multiple divorces and prolonged periods of bachelorhood were found to be more susceptible to inflammation. Chronic systemic inflammation plays a pivotal role in the development of numerous age-related diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and cancer, as highlighted by experts. Notably, men who had experienced divorce and bachelorhood exhibited a 17% higher level of inflammation compared to others.

Furthermore, inflammation was elevated by 12% among those who remained single for at least seven years. Researchers noted that women's inflammatory health was less affected by singleness compared to men's. They suggested that men are more likely to express sadness during divorce, which could impact inflammation levels differently. (Raphael Ben, 2022).

Secondly: Demographic studies conducted by the Council of Europe in 2002 once again confirm the impact of celibacy on men's health: “A 50-year-old single person is three times more likely to die than a married man of the same age.

Demographers have observed that the inequality of mortality rates is also influenced by marital status. This study reinforces this finding by revealing the following:

Everyone knows it is better to be ‘rich, healthy and fit’ than ‘sick and poor’ to maximize one's chances of a long life. This demographic study completes the adage: “It's also better to be married.” According to the authors, the rate of increased mortality among unmarried individuals - which has been observed since the 1950s - has grown significantly since 1990, rising from 130% to 160% for men aged 45 to 54, and from 70% to 80% for women of the same age.

Stéphane Cotter, head of the Population Development Section of the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, stated that comparing the mortality table developed in 1996, based on data from 1988 to 1993, with the one from a decade earlier, a significant 1.4% increase in mortality risk was observed among single men aged between 20 and 65 years old. Conversely, married men experienced a 2.3 percent decrease in mortality risk, highlighting a significant difference. This disparity was less pronounced among women.

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Consequently, unmarried individuals—whether single, widowed, or divorced—remain more vulnerable. Statistics indicate that a 50-year-old single person is three times more likely to die than a married person of the same age (Corine Block, 2002).

As for mental health, the results of a study conducted by David De Vauss in 2022 from Australia titled “Does marriage improve the mental health of men at the expense of women?”

It is the largest mental health study conducted in Australia, involving 10,641 Australian adults. (Badr Ali. 2015-2016, P19).

The study revealed in the following findings:

- Married men have better mental health than single men.
- Single men have worse mental health than single women.
- Unmarried men and women have similar levels of mental disorders.
- There are differences in the mental health of married men and women, with married women suffering more than married men.
- Married women have worse mental health than married men.
- Married women have worse mental health than unmarried women

In conclusion, the aforementioned studies unequivocally demonstrate that prolonged bachelorhood has severe health implications at the individual level.

These health issues, including a significant increase in the risk of chronic diseases and premature mortality, can have detrimental effects on both the individual and society.

Consequently, men who delay marriage, especially those who remain single for an extended period, are at a higher risk of developing various physical and mental health problems. Statistics reveal that a 50-year-old unmarried man is three times more likely to die compared to a married man of the same age. This poses a substantial burden on both the individual's family and society, economically and socially.

5.2 Social consequences of bachelorhood:

a- Impacts on the individual:

Men have a higher sex drive compared to women, they are more susceptible to sexual desire, and they are always interested in sex (Rashwan, 2003,P9).

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Consequently, a rising number of single men may lead to emotional and sexual deprivation, potentially driving young individuals towards customary or secret marriage or marriage of pleasure.

These phenomena are increasingly prevalent in Arab societies. Shereen El Feki, in her study on sexual life in the Arab world, observes that this generation finds itself caught between biology and sociology, reaching sexual maturity in an environment that resists any alternative to sex outside of marriage.

Given rising religiosity among much of the region's youth, a significant but highly speculative number are also turning to alternative forms of marriage among them temporary 'pleasure' marriage and customary marriage, increasingly popular in Sunni-majority countries, in an attempt to give their sexual relations a religious cover, however controversial (El Feki, 2018, p 23) .

Formal studies on the sexual lives of Arab youth, which represent a significant cultural and demographic challenge, are virtually nonexistent due to reluctance to address this issue.

"Moreover, over the past decade, rates of HIV infection have been on the rise in the Middle East and North Africa, providing a socially acceptable public health rationale for initiating difficult conversations with unmarried youth about their knowledge, attitudes, and sexual behaviors.

Dr. Chakib Guessous argues that in all Arab countries, single individuals of both genders are violating both laws and social norms by engaging in intimate relationships, which can be either casual or continuous, enhanced by increased social interaction and mixing between the genders. (Guessous, P56, 2018)"

Social media has played a huge role in the proliferation of such relationships, more than ever before. A study conducted by Manal Al-Ghazawi and her colleagues in Amman found that social media has provided young people with opportunities to initiate and engage in illicit relationships. In addition, cultural invasion through social media has shaped perceptions about the nature of relationships between men and women. These platforms have encouraged illicit and forbidden relationships under the notion of "free

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relationships” claiming to allow individuals to get to know each other before marriage (Al-Ghazawi, 2020, p. 2214).

Furthermore, single men often face societal stigma, being viewed with suspicion and disapproval. Questions about their marital status can lead to embarrassment and social isolation. This negative societal perception can contribute to feelings of depression, loneliness, and a weakened sense of belonging, impacting their relationships with family and friends.

Moreover, prolonged bachelorhood can make it difficult for men to adjust to married life. Having become accustomed to an independent and unrestricted lifestyle, they may struggle to adapt to the demands of a partnership and the responsibilities of family life

b- Implications at the Family and Societal Levels

Marriage is considered as a cornerstone of moral and societal order. It serves as a protective framework, safeguarding individuals from engaging in illicit sexual behaviours and other transgressions that may violate religious or cultural norms. By channelling sexual desires into a socially approved context, marriage contributes to the stability of families and communities.

Studies have shown that single individuals may be more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviours, including those that are sexually risky. This may be due to a variety of factors, such as the desire to satisfy unmet emotional or physical needs.

Quantitative research conducted in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, and the West Bank consistently demonstrates that a substantial proportion of young people are engaging in premarital sexual activity, often beginning in adolescence.

These studies reveal that a significant percentage of young people report having multiple sexual partners. The societal implications of this trend are far-reaching, including elevated rates of teenage pregnancy, single parenthood, and the stigmatization of children born out of wedlock.

Although official data likely underrepresents the prevalence of single motherhood due to the stigmatization surrounding the issue, a report from the Algerian League for Human Rights in 2017 estimated that there were

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approximately 10,000 single mothers in the country, with over 1,000 new cases documented each year.

Further analysis of birth certificates indicating [x] births, which are estimated to number between 3,000 and 5,000 annually according to the president of National Foundation For Health Progress And Research Development (FOREM) professor Mustapaha Khiati, noted that the actual number of single mothers may be even higher. These findings challenge media reports that have announced a figure of 7,000 out-of-wedlock births per year.

The real issue in knowing the number of single mothers is the presence of unknown and unregistered cases, where births take place outside of health institutions, making it challenging to obtain reliable data.

Similarly, the issue of illegitimate children is rarely discussed openly, as acknowledging their existence would imply the occurrence of illicit pregnancies, which is considered a significant social taboo and religious sin in Islamic societies.

However, the number of illegitimate children born out of wedlock is constantly increasing in our society. According to the Ministry of Solidarity and Family, at least 3,000 illegitimate children are registered every year.

Furthermore, pregnancies outside of marriage often lead to single motherhood, which imposes significant costs on both families and society. These consequences include abortion, infanticide, and an increase in sexual crimes such as adultery and prostitution. Illegitimate pregnancies have negative repercussions for the mother, often leading to her being ostracized by her family and leaving her vulnerable and unprotected. As a result, many single mothers turn to drugs or prostitution to survive or become victims of criminal gangs, ultimately becoming a burden to the society.

Additionally, many single mothers experience severe psychological distress, leading some to attempt suicide. These actions are not only harmful but also prohibited, causing significant damage to their physical and mental health.

The social pressure to marry is often intensified by parental concerns about the future of their unmarried sons. Parents frequently worry that their sons

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will experience feelings of loneliness and isolation in old age if they remain unmarried and childless.

A 50-year-old bachelor said, “I have brought sadness and sorrow to my mother, may Allah have mercy on her, and now I am doing the same to my sisters.”

This clearly demonstrates the negative impact a bachelor can have on his entire family. As previously discussed, prolonged bachelorhood, especially at an advanced age, increases the risk of illness and mortality compared to married individuals. As we will see later, this results in individuals with fragile health, placing a significant burden on healthcare budgets and leaving families with sick members who are difficult to care for, especially if the parents are elderly and also in need of healthcare.

Among the implications of bachelorhood for the family is that we may be on the verge of a proliferation of other forms of family structures that may be created by the presence of a growing number of singles.

When more people choose to remain single or delay marriage, it results in fewer new families being formed, which can disrupt traditional family structures. This may lead to the emergence of new family types based on relationships formed through education, work, or personal connections, rather than blood or marriage ties. Such arrangements are often driven by economic and social factors that force single people to live together.

The increasing prevalence of bachelorhood has a negative impact on society by undermining the traditional family structure. This can result in the emergence of alternative relationship models, such as common-law marriages or partnerships based on friendship, rather than formal marriage.

6. Conclusion

To sum up, many social and demographic data show that bachelorhood has increased in Algerian society. Therefore, this problem is worth considering and is equally significant to the impact on women's medical, psychological, social, and demographic aspects.

Many young people today are reaching their forties and fifties without getting married by choice, not only for financial reasons but also due to significant societal shifts in values and the evolving concept of marriage among young

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people. This includes negative perceptions of married life, indifference, fear, a reluctance to take on responsibilities, and a loss of trust in the opposite sex stemming from increasing openness, promiscuity, and the emergence of alternatives to marriage.

Numerous effects will threaten the stability of society that the rise in bachelorhood will have on the individual, family, and society. The decline in marriage-based families and the rise in single people may be the most notable. These factors may lead to more people deviating from the norm and breaking taboos, which can have detrimental effects on both the family and society.

Additionally, because studies have shown repeatedly single people are more likely than married people to die young and suffer from a range of illnesses; these occurrences will make the population more vulnerable to health issues. Additionally, it will upset the demographic balance of age and gender and lead to an aging society since it will exacerbate the decline in birth rates, which are essential for replacing generations.

Given all of these elements, bachelorhood continues to be a problem that has to be addressed because of the detrimental effects it has on people, families, and society as a whole. Parents should encourage their sons to marry at legal, social, and demographically acceptable ages, especially if they can afford it. Correcting misconceptions about marriage and teaching children how to manage the responsibilities of marriage is crucial. This will help create a better society. Additionally, media outlets and relevant authorities must collaborate to raise public awareness about the prevalence of male singleness and its detrimental effects on young people. A significant challenge with far-reaching consequences is presented by this phenomenon, similar to spinsterhood.

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