

*Algerian students' attitudes towards the idea of marriage:  
a field study on a sample of students from the University of Blida (2)*

**اتجاهات الطالب الجزائري نحو فكرة الزواج  
- دراسة ميدانية على عينة من طلبة جامعة البليدة (2) -**

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**الملخص:**

هدفت الدراسة الحالية إلى تقصي حقيقة اتجاهات الطلبة الجامعيين نحو الزواج في ظل هذا التقدم والتطور الحاصل في كافة مجالات الحياة، وتعمدها، وقد تمت على عينة قوامها 120 طالب من الطلبة الجامعيين في جامعة البليدة 2 تخصص العلوم الاجتماعية والإنسانية والعلوم السياسية والاقتصادية طبقنا عليهم مقياس الاتجاه نحو الزواج لإخلاص علي حسين ومحمد طالب (2015)، وتوصلنا من خلال النتائج أن اتجاهات الطلبة نحو الزواج سلبية في غالبيتها، كما توصلنا إلى وجود فروق دالة إحصائية في اتجاهات الطلبة نحو الزواج تبعاً لمتغير الجنس، وذلك لصالح الإناث باتجاهات إيجابية، مقابل اتجاهات سلبية للذكور.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:**

الاتجاه نحو الزواج، الطالب الجامعي.

**Abstract:**

The present study aimed to investigate university students' attitudes towards marriage in light of the progress and development happening in all aspects of life. It was conducted on a sample of 120 students at the University of Blida 2, specializing in Social and Human Sciences and Political and Economic Sciences. We applied the Marriage Attitude Scale developed by Ekhlal Ali Hussein and Mohammed Talib (2015) to them. The results demonstrated that the students' attitudes towards marriage are mostly negative. We also found statistically significant differences in the students' attitudes towards marriage according to the gender variable, in favor of females with positive attitudes, compared to negative attitudes for males.

**Keywords:**

attitude towards marriage - university student.

**1. INTRODUCTION:**

Marriage is considered the most significant pillar of human civilization, and it is the only way to guarantee the continuity of humanity. It is the unique system capable of the survival of the human race, even if all other human systems fail. People continue to marry, and no one reaches the age of fifty unless he has attempted marriage, and few are those who forsake it. Marriage is often seen as a foundation for building a life together, establishing a home, and starting a family to contribute to the world. Therefore, God Almighty imposed on His servants the marriage between a male and a female, and it is considered one of the holiest and closest bonds that unite them. Through marriage, a cohesive and interconnected family is formed, based on love, compassion, and respect between both parties. Marriage is mentioned in all religions that exist. Marriage leads to benefits for the psychological and mental health of married couples, and scholars believe that marriage leads to changes in the human brain that stimulate the immune system to live longer.

**1- Problematic:**

God created man and woman to complete each other through marriage. This relationship must be built on a solid and strong foundation, with love and understanding prevailing on both sides, ensuring a happy and harmonious marital life free from conflicts. Both spouses must understand the problems that usually arise from differences in perspectives or the inability of one party to understand the other. Marriage is considered a shared responsibility between spouses to achieve its purpose, to continue the relationship and create a healthy generation capable of developing society. Therefore, careful planning must be done before the decision to marry. This planning includes the material, psychological and social aspects. It is essential for the prospective groom to be able to provide for the family's needs. The Messenger of Allah to us: 'O young men, whoever among you can afford it, let him get married,

What is meant by “ba” is the financial ability and physical ability to establish a sexual relationship with a partner, because sex is one of the necessities of marriage

<https://al-maktaba.org/book/31616/54743>

There must also be compatibility between the spouses in all aspects. including social compatibility (belonging to the same social environment and sharing the same religion) and cultural compatibility. If the spouses are of two different levels, disagreement rather than coalition is likely to prevail, and the wider the difference between them, the greater the possibility of the marriage failing?

According to Al-Ghafri’s study, which was conducted on a group of couples of different ages and cultural levels, which concluded that the difference in cultural and social level would lead to the possibility of marriage failure due to the difference in thinking and different interests.(Al Ghafri.2018)

, especially if the man is of lower status and the woman is of higher status.; Psychological compatibility is the individual's comfort with his partner, and as long as the couple will spend a long life together, it's in their best interest and wisdom dictates that each should feel at ease with their partner's character. It is not just about physical appearance but also about the demeanor, the shape of the face, the appearance of the head, the color of the eyes, and other aspects. However, these details can be overlooked for the original purpose of marriage, which is the meeting of two souls in tranquility and mercy, as these are the fruits of form and appearance. With time faults disappear. Today's youth, especially university students, believe that marriage is what is depicted to them in soap operas and dramas. The rosy and romantic life is imaginary. They expect the husband coming with a gift every day, and going to dinner together and spend the evenings in front of the television. However, the reality is different, as marriage is a small institution led by the spouses to reach safety. Young people who propose to marry encounter many problems that make them helpless in the face of their desire to marry and their inability to do so. Among these problems on the marital level is the delay in the age of marriage due to high dowries; the difficulty of choosing a life partner, the lack of suitable job opportunities, the provision of suitable housing, occupying a prestigious social position, and direct... Social roles that achieve self-esteem, cause them to encounter academic and marital problems. **(Al-Jawir, 1995, p. 41)**

\*Among the problems facing prospective spouses is the increasing cost of living, as well as the lack of communication in conservative societies that segregate the sexes, making it difficult to choose a life partner. These issues include the scarcity of funds necessary to embark on a marriage program, the absence of suitable job opportunities, and prevailing cultural customs in the society such as early marriage, cousin marriage, and high wedding expenses. **(Alwan. 1991, p. 55)**

Young people also face the problem of choosing a partner. There is fear from both sides; girls fear what their partner will be like after marriage and whether he will give them the love they expect and the life they desire, such as showering her with words of flirtation and love and offering gifts on all occasions. As for the male, he is afraid of the girl's past and her previous relationships, especially according to the promiscuity he sees in the university community makes him reluctant to get married for fear that his future wife might have spent her university life promiscuity. Failing. **(Al-Khatatna, Odeh. 1996):**

The housing problem also constitutes a concern among university students, as most Algerians suffer from the lack of housing. The majority of individuals do not marry for fear of this problem because they see married people either living with their families in one room or renting apartments for huge sums of money, making them unable to provide a decent life for themselves and their families. He really would like to get married, settle down, and start a family. However, the circumstances surrounding him do not encourage this desire and make his attitude

towards marriage to lean towards negativity. Therefore, we find studying trends towards marriage among young people a societal and research necessity to identify the nature of the representations that the Algerian university youth holds about marriage, that is, the most important perceptions that revolve in his mind about the institution of marriage for which every individual draws a picture in his imagination that may be similar to other young people or may differ..

Hence, our current study aims to investigate the attitudes of university students towards marriage, exploring the preparations and predispositions that young people exhibit towards the topic of marriage, especially given the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country. Additionally, we seek to identify the reality of gender differences in these attitudes by answering the following questions:

What are the nature of undergraduate students' attitudes towards marriage?

- Are there differences in the nature of attitudes among university students due to sex?

## 2- Study hypotheses:

-University students' attitudes towards marriage are negative.

-There are statistically significant differences in the nature of university students' attitudes toward marriage due to the gender variable.

## 3- Study objectives:

The current study aims at:

\* Identifying the nature of trends towards marriage among university students, as we have noticed in recent years the reluctance of young people to marry or marry at an early age, depending on the reasons that motivate them to do so. Marriage is a Sunnah that no one deviates from following, but social and economic conditions hinder its performance.

## 4- Study terms:

### 4-1- Trends:

In individual responses or the dynamics of mental and neural readiness, organization occurs through experience, initiating a directed influence towards all the objects or situations associated with it. It is an acquired organization, which has the characteristic of relative continuity of the beliefs held by the individual. , towards a topic or situation, and prepares him to respond, with a preferable response. "It is also an individual's tendency or prior readiness to evaluate a topic or a symbol that symbolizes it in a certain way." (Al-Atoum, 2009, p. 21).

**-2- The trend towards marriage procedurally:**

It is the score obtained by university students on scale of Attitudes Towards Marriage Scale by Ekhlās Ali Hussein and Muhammad Talib (2015)

**4-3-Definition of the university student:**

The student is one of the environmental management inputs for teaching and learning, and indeed the most important educational scientific intervention. Without the student, there will be no merit or learning (Shehata, 2001).

It is also defined as a person whose academic competence allows him to move from the secondary stage or the one of higher technical vocational training to a university according to his sub-specialization using a certificate or diploma that qualifies him for this.

Field study procedures: :

**1- Methodology:**

The nature of this topic has forced us to use the comparative descriptive approach, given that through this study we would like to conduct a survey on university students' attitudes toward marriage, trying to reveal the quality of those attitudes. The study also aims to identify female university students' attitudes towards marriage. These trends, and therefore the descriptive comparative approach can achieve this study's objectives.

**- Research field:**

The study scale was applied to a sample of students from the University of Blida 2, in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences.

**3- Research sample:**

The scale was applied to a student sample of 120 male and female students, from the previously mentioned departments, whose ages ranged between 21-35 years, who were selected randomly. The following table shows the most important characteristics of the research sample.

**Table No. (1): the characteristics of the research sample according to the study variables**

| Gender |           | The nature of the student's attitudes towards marriage |                 |       |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 42     | Male      | 47                                                     | Positive trends |       |
| 78     | Femini ne | 73                                                     | Negative trends |       |
| 120    |           | 120                                                    |                 | Total |

**4- Research tool:**

The scale consists of 46 items, and their weights are (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) if the content of the paragraph is negative, and (5, 4, 3, 2) if the content of the item was positive. The answer alternatives were according to the Likert scale (strongly agree, agree, not sure, disagree, strongly disagree). Therefore, the scale scores ranged between (42 - 230 degrees).

A high score on the scale indicates students' positive attitudes toward marriage, and a low score indicates negative attitudes. The two researchers tested its psychometric properties, and it was presented to the arbitrators. They unanimously agreed that it was very valid for application to the required sample, with some modifications made to it. Its validity was calculated statistically, and it had acceptable validity for the purposes of the study. Reliability was also calculated using the Cronbach's alpha method, indicating a high stability factor

**-Statistical tools used**

The statistical program SPSS was used to process the research results, based on appropriate statistical tools and the formulation of research hypotheses, which are as follows:

Percentages to identify the nature of their orientation towards marriage

. -  $Ka_2$  test to study differences in frequencies, with regard to testing differences in the nature of students' attitudes towards marriage according to the gender variable.

**Presentation and discussion of research results:**

Presentation and discussion of the first hypothesis: The nature of university youth's attitudes toward marriage is negative.

**Table No. (2) the nature of university youth’s attitudes toward marriage**

| The nature of students’ attitudes towards marriage | Sample | Percentage |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Positive trends                                    | 31     | %42.50     |
| Negative trends                                    | 69     | 57.50%     |
| Total                                              | 120    | 100%       |

The results of Table No. (2) show us the nature of students’ attitudes towards marriage. It is noted that the majority of students had negative attitudes, as the number was estimated at 69 male and female students out of a total of 120, while the number of male and female students with a negative attitude towards marriage reached 31 out of a total of 120 male and female students. This indicates that the first research hypothesis, which states that university students’ attitudes toward marriage are negative, has been confirmed.

In this regard, Our study results are inconsistent, as the study of Hussein Al-Qahtani (2008), which focused on the attitudes of young people towards marriage and work, found a sample of students in the city of Buraydah. The results showed that the trends towards marriage among young people are positive. However, it is affected by a number of factors, namely those related to family factors, and the size of the family and the level of education of the father had an impact in shaping young people’s attitudes towards their marital and professional future.

**(Al-Qahtani. 2008, p. 141)**

The study also contradicts the study of Al-Khatatneh (1996), which aimed to identify the attitudes of university students in Jordan towards marriage in light of a number of variables such as family ties, social problems, social cohesion, the financial factor, and social change. The study showed that the attitudes of the individuals in the research sample in light of all variables are positive. The phenomenon of marriage. **(Al-Khatatna. 1996, p. 140)**

This difference in results may be due to the nature of the previously mentioned societies compared to the Algerian society, as the well-being experienced by members of a society would positively affect young people’s attitudes toward marriage and vice versa.

**2 -Presentation and discussion of the results of the second hypothesis:**

There are differences between the genders regarding university students' attitudes toward marriage.

**Table No. (3): The result of applying the Ka<sup>2</sup> test for the significance of differences in the nature of university students' attitudes toward marriage according to the gender variable**

| The nature of students' attitudes towards marriage | Gender |        | Value of Ka2 | Degree of freedom | Significance level | Significance |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|                                                    | Male   | Female |              |                   |                    |              |
| Positive trends                                    | 9      | 42     | 1.79         | 1                 | 0.05               | Signe        |
| Negative trends                                    | 33     | 36     |              |                   |                    |              |
| Total                                              | 42     | 78     |              |                   |                    |              |

The results show that the calculated Ka<sup>2</sup> value was estimated at 79.1 at a degree of freedom of 1, which is a significant value at the significance level of 0.05, which proves the existence of statistically significant differences in the nature of university students' attitudes towards marriage according to the gender variable. The results of the studies indicated that female trends are positive while male trends towards marriage are negative. Therefore, we have achieved the hypothesis of the second research, which suggests the existence of differences in the attitudes of university students according to gender.

It should be highlighted that the results of our study are in line with the ones of Suleiman Al-Muzain's 2013 study in Palestine, which revolved around the problems of the marital and academic future among the students of the Islamic University of Gaza from their point of view in light of some variables. It concluded that the students in the study sample viewed the problems as Marriage in different ways according to gender. Males view the problems they face and changes in their attitudes towards marriage primarily as financial issues. The conditions of war and siege have made the thought of marriage for Palestinian youth seem like a fantasy, especially in light of the lack of job positions or even permanent homes. He also does not know the nature of the wife that will be chosen and how she will deal with his parents. As for girls, they see that marriage as an inevitable end for every girl. Otherwise, she will bear the title of a spinster and become the talk of family gatherings in every family. Therefore, they prefer traditional marriage, whether arranged or based on love, as long as it involves building a family with a man, having children, and repeating the life of their mother and grandmother.

(Al-Muzain. 2013, p. 128)

While the results of our research differed from the ones of Saleh's study (2008), which aimed to identify the attitudes of Sana'a University students of both genders towards marriage, as well as attempting to find out the existence of significant differences according to the variables of gender, place of residence, socio-economic level, statistics, for the family, the student's study group towards marriage. The results of the study revealed that there were no statistically significant differences between genders in the trend towards marriage, as both males and females showed a positive trend towards marriage.

**(Bin Asaad. Al-Ansari. 2008, p. 138)**

The reason for this difference between our study and the aforementioned study may be due to the nature of the geographical environment in which the university student lives. Once he graduates from the university, The Jordanian university student has many job opportunities and does not have the housing problem to the extent that Algeria experiences. On the other hand, Algerian students perceive their future as uncertain, as they lack employment and adequate housing, which makes them think twice before marriage given the living conditions in the country. Additionally, they lack confidence in choosing a life partner, considering their partner's past and their family's interactions. He is also afraid of having children and being unable to provide their necessary needs.

**General conclusion:**

Studying university students' attitudes towards marriage is of great importance in scientific research and of great benefit to the student's future. God created marriage to complement religion and establish a family where two people come together in peace and tranquility and have children whom they raise in a sound manner. However, in light of the circumstances in which Algerian society lives, the decline in living conditions and the lack of housing problems have made university students reluctant to marry, especially as they fear choosing the right partner and how their life will be after marriage. After applying the test to several university students at the University of Blida 2, we concluded that university students have negative attitudes towards marriage, and significant differences between the genders regarding attitudes towards marriage. Males often bear the responsibility for many marriage-related expenses, such as expensive dowries, housing, wedding preparations, and other financial burdens that they may not be able to afford. They are also unsure about their future financial stability and whether they can meet the needs of their future family. On the other hand, females fear one thing above all: the possibility of their partner changing after marriage and the absence of the desired qualities in their traditional partner. As for the girl, in that case, she is afraid of one thing: her partner changing after marriage if there is a relationship between them and the lack of conditions in the partner she married traditionally. The female sees marriage as portrayed to her in the Turkish movie and series that has spread recently and has begun to portray to girls that marriage is

a paradise and absolute romance. Dinner over candles and continuous flirting, so she draws in her imagination men who have these qualities and while dismissing those who do not possess them,

Therefore, we propose, through this study, to build guidance programs for university students that explain to them the real nature of marriage and prepare them psychologically for the new life that a male or female must enter, loaded with all the information about them psychologically, physically, and sexually, and make them capable of building a family, not only sexually, but a happy family whose happiness is reflected in a promotion. Society and its development because a healthy family creates healthy generations capable of production and working towards the prosperity of society

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