



The Contemporary Algerian Family Between Internal Issues and Unexpected Crises

الأسرة الجزائرية المعاصرة بين المشكلات الداخلية والأزمات المفاجئة

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Article abstract:

This study aims to shed light on the reality of the Algerian family in the face of increasing challenges, both in terms of internal problems and sudden family crises. The family has undergone fundamental transformations due to social, cultural, and moral changes, which have impacted its stability and cohesion.

Based on these findings, the study highlights the importance of professional intervention in addressing these issues through family counseling, psychological and social support programs, and family accompaniment services. The study also emphasizes the role of social and governmental institutions in providing social care for families by creating a supportive environment.

Key words: Family, Family Problems, Family Crisis, Professional Intervention

ملخص المقال:

هدفت الدراسة إلى تسليط الضوء على واقع الأسرة الجزائرية في ظل التحديات المتزايدة التي تواجهها، سواء على مستوى المشكلات الداخلية أو الأزمات الأسرية الطارئة، فقد شهدت الأسرة تحولات جوهرية نتيجة للتغيرات الاجتماعية والثقافية والأخلاقية، مما أثر ذلك على استقرارها وتماسكها.

وانطلاقاً من ذلك أبرزت الدراسة أهمية التدخل المهني في معالجة هذه القضايا من خلال تقديم الاستشارات الأسرية وبرامج الدعم النفسي والاجتماعي والمرافقة الأسرية، كما أكدت على دور المؤسسات الاجتماعية والحكومية في الرعاية الاجتماعية للأسر عن طريق توفير بيئة مناسبة داعمة لها.

كلمات مفتاحية: الأسرة، المشكلة الأسرية، الأزمة الأسرية، التدخل المهني

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Introduction

The family represents the fundamental pillar of society, serving as the first institution that nurtures children and influences their psychological and social development. Its stability is essential for ensuring a cohesive society. However, today's families face numerous challenges in the form of problems and crises that threaten their unity and balance, such as marital conflicts, domestic abuse, economic pressures, and external influences like social and cultural changes. These challenges range from minor issues that can be resolved internally to complex crises that may lead to family disintegration, negatively impacting children's psychological stability and social behavior. The severity of these crises is also reflected in broader societal consequences, contributing to rising rates of juvenile delinquency, divorce, violence, and other social and behavioral disorders, particularly among children and adolescents.

Given these difficulties, professional intervention plays a crucial role in providing appropriate solutions to address family problems and crises. Social workers and psychologists help guide families toward effective conflict resolution strategies and access to necessary support. Professional intervention is not limited to offering immediate problem-solving consultations but extends to raising awareness about the importance of family crisis prevention through education and community awareness. Additionally, social welfare institutions and family support programs play a significant role in assisting families in overcoming life's difficulties through dialogue-based guidance and counseling. This approach helps reduce family disintegration rates and fosters a more stable family environment.

Therefore, seeking professional intervention and family counseling has become a necessary step to preserve family cohesion and ensure its sustainability. The well-being and stability of families inevitably reflect on the strength and harmony of society as a whole.

Through this study, we aim to identify the major problems and crises that hinder Algerian families from fulfilling their essential roles. We will provide a descriptive and analytical overview of the most prevalent family issues and crises, supported by recent statistics on their occurrence in recent years. Accordingly, we pose the following key questions:

What are the most common family problems and crises?

What are their causes and impacts on family members and society?

How can professional intervention support families?

What are the priorities of social policy in addressing these issues?

1. Introduction to Family Problems

1.1 Definition of Family Problems:

Family problems are defined as the conditions and circumstances that affect a family or one of its members, leading to poor relationships, disrupting family roles and positions, and impairing the family's ability to fulfill its psychological and social functions. These issues arise from the interaction between internal factors (such as individual personality traits) and external environmental influences, resulting in dysfunction within the family structure and preventing it from performing its essential duties. (Salem & Al-Muqail, 2016, p. 194)

Another definition describes family problems as a state of maladaptation and inconsistency between societal family norms and the actual lived family experience. (Abu Alian, 2013, p. 153), These

problems emerge as social situations that family units struggle to address due to insufficient resources, necessitating solutions through either strengthening existing social systems or creating new ones. This can be achieved by optimizing available resources or generating new ones. (Hamza, 2015, p. 431)

1.2 Classification of Family Problems:

Family problems can be classified based on the stages of family development: (Saleh, 2014, pp. 209-210)

a. pre-marital problems:

- Poor marital choice.
- Forced marriage.
- High dowries.
- Lack of cultural awareness.
- Unsupervised interactions between young males and females.
- Adultery and issues related to illegitimate children.
- Housing difficulties.

b. Post-marital problems:

- Emotional and sexual incompatibility.
- Jealousy and marital infidelity.
- Power struggles within the household.
- Challenges faced by working women.
- Drug and alcohol addiction.
- Inability to build healthy relationships with children.
- Chronic illnesses and infertility.
- Death of a spouse.
- Divorce.
- Low household income.

c. Problems after children's marriage and retirement:

- Feelings of loneliness due to children leaving home.
- Insufficient retirement income to meet the needs of old age.
- This classification highlights the evolving nature of family problems across different life stages, emphasizing the need for appropriate intervention strategies to support family stability.

1.3 Examples of Family Problems:

1.3.1 The Problem of Juvenile Delinquency:

Juvenile delinquency is a significant social issue that many families struggle with due to their inability to regulate their children's behaviors in alignment with societal values and norms. In recent years, there has been an alarming rise in delinquent behaviors among teenagers, including theft, assault, and drug abuse.

The causes of juvenile delinquency are diverse and can be classified into social, economic, and other contributing factors, as outlined below:



a. Social Factors

Social factors play a crucial role in shaping children's behavior and influencing the likelihood of delinquency. Key contributors include: (Zgair & Saleh, 2010, pp. 25-45)

Parental Conflicts and Divorce: Marital conflicts and domestic disputes often lead to an unstable home environment. In cases where these conflicts escalate to divorce, children may experience emotional neglect and lack of supervision, making them more susceptible to delinquency. Divorce deprives children of parental care and affection, which can drive them toward crime and misconduct.

Death of a Parent: Losing one or both parents can have a profound impact on a child's psychological and social development. A child who loses their mother may struggle to receive the same level of care and attention from a stepmother. Likewise, a child whose father has passed away and whose mother remarries may feel neglected, increasing the likelihood of engaging in delinquent behavior.

Poor Parenting Practices: Many parents fail to adopt proper parenting techniques, often ignoring religious and ethical guidelines. One common mistake is favoritism—when parents show preference for one child over another, leading the neglected child to feel unimportant and unwanted. In response, they may seek refuge outside the home, increasing their exposure to negative influences such as peer pressure.

Bad Peer Influence: Associating with delinquent peers is a major factor in juvenile crime. Young people are often introduced to harmful behaviors—such as smoking, drug use, and petty theft—through their friends. Over time, these habits can escalate into more serious offenses like drug dealing and organized crime.

Overindulgence and Spoiling: Excessive pampering and fulfilling every demand of a child without teaching responsibility can have negative consequences. A spoiled child may become self-centered, unable to handle difficulties, and prone to frustration and aggression when their desires are not met.

School Environment: Schools play a critical role in shaping children's behavior. When school administrations fail to enforce discipline or when teachers adopt overly harsh disciplinary methods, students may become disengaged and resort to skipping school. This can push them into delinquent activities, especially if they spend time in unmonitored environments.

Influence of Media: Television, social media, movies, and video games have a significant impact on young minds. Unrestricted access to violent or crime-related content can encourage deviant behavior, particularly among impressionable teenagers. Exposure to criminal acts in films, video games, or online platforms may normalize these behaviors, increasing the likelihood of real-life environment.

b. Economic Factors

Economic hardship is another major driver of juvenile delinquency. When basic needs such as food, healthcare, shelter, and financial security are not met, children may resort to unlawful means to fulfill their needs.

Key economic factors linked to juvenile delinquency include: (Al-Harbi, 2022, p. 65)

- Low family income: Families with financial instability struggle to provide for their children's basic needs, increasing frustration and leading some children to seek alternative means—sometimes illegal—to acquire what they lack.
- Poverty and poor living conditions: Families living in poverty are more vulnerable to stress and instability, which can lead to child neglect or exposure to criminal influences.
- Inability to meet basic needs legally: When legal means are insufficient to secure essentials, children may turn to theft, fraud, or other unlawful activities.
- Lack of daily allowance: Children who do not receive sufficient pocket money may feel deprived compared to their peers, prompting them to steal or engage in other illegal activities.
- Unemployment and low parental income: Job loss or low wages can create financial strain in families, affecting children's well-being and increasing the likelihood of delinquency.
- Substandard housing in slums and impoverished neighborhoods: Poor housing conditions can expose children to crime, drug use, and other negative influences, fostering an environment conducive to delinquent behavior.

These factors demonstrate the complex interplay between family, society, and economic conditions in shaping juvenile behavior. Addressing juvenile delinquency requires a multidimensional approach, including family counseling, economic support, community programs, and school-based interventions to create a more stable and nurturing environment for children.

1.3.2 The Issue of Women's Employment:

Women's employment plays a crucial role in enhancing their self-fulfillment, financial independence, and social status. However, when a woman gets married and becomes a mother, balancing career responsibilities with family obligations can become challenging.

Challenges Faced by Working Women:

- Married working women often struggle with multiple demands from their homes, spouses, and children, alongside work-related expectations. These struggles can manifest in:
- Increased physical and mental exhaustion due to the competing demands of work, household chores, childcare, and marital duties.
- Conflicts with spouses over household responsibilities, accusations of neglecting home duties, and a perceived lack of care in personal appearance.
- Financial disputes, as some husbands may expect their wives to contribute their salaries to household expenses, while others may try to control their earnings.
- Feelings of guilt for leaving children unattended for long hours. (Al-Deeb, 1998, p. 272)

Negative Impacts of Women's Employment: (Abu Asaad & Al-Khatatneh, 2014, pp. 254-265)

- Psychological Pressure: Managing multiple roles can lead to role conflict, causing stress, anxiety, and fatigue.
- Lower Desire for Childbearing: Women in high-ranking jobs may prioritize career goals over expanding their families.

- Strained Marital & Parental Relationships: The pressure of juggling responsibilities may cause marital disputes, less emotional connection with children, and a lack of appreciation from husbands.
- Financial Conflicts: Disagreements may arise over how salaries should be spent, especially if the husband expects financial contributions while the wife prefers financial independence.
- Higher Divorce Rates: Some researchers link the rise in divorce rates, especially in urban areas, to women's employment. Financial independence makes women less willing to endure toxic relationships and more likely to initiate divorce.
- Negative Impact on Work Performance: Marital conflicts and role overload may reduce work efficiency, causing burnout and dissatisfaction.
- Despite these challenges, working women significantly contribute to the economy and social progress. Achieving a balance between work and home requires flexible work policies, shared household responsibilities, and social support to minimize conflicts.

1.3.3 Addiction

Addiction is a compulsive, uncontrollable dependence on a substance, despite its harmful consequences. It involves continued use of drugs, alcohol, or other substances for non-medical purposes, often leading to criminal behavior such as theft or prescription forgery. (Istitiya & Sarhan, 2012, p. 141)

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines addiction as a psychological and sometimes physical condition that results from prolonged interaction between an individual and a substance. It is characterized by:

- Strong cravings to use the drug continuously.
- Withdrawal symptoms when the drug is unavailable.
- Psychological dependence, leading to compulsive drug-seeking behavior.

a- Addiction is a multidimensional social problem with serious consequences:

- Psychological & Physical Problem: Drugs alter brain function, impairing mental well-being and making social reintegration difficult.
- Economic Problem: Addiction strains personal finances, leading users into debt and criminal activity. It also burdens governments with high costs of drug control, rehabilitation, and law enforcement.
- Social Problem: Drug abuse undermines social cohesion and weakens family and community bonds. It reflects poor social control and challenges moral values. (Turkiya, 2015, p. 114)

b- Factors of Addiction:

Addiction has existed for a long time, with various uses—some legal for medical purposes and most illegal for profit or criminal activities. It is associated with numerous conditions and causes, whether related to the drug itself and its properties or the addict as an individual. However, the most significant factors pertain to the family and social environment, which will be the focus of the following discussion (Zabdi, 2012, pp. 16-17)

The family is one of the most crucial environmental factors contributing to addiction. It is the common denominator in every research study on the nature of addiction. The family shapes the child's



social identity, trains them to conform to societal behavioral norms, and prepares them to experience emotions such as love, fear, and anger. The absence of parental guidance and authority often leads to negative outcomes. In most cases, separation and divorce have emotional effects on children, making them vulnerable to addiction or various forms of delinquency, often in deviant environments.

Poor relationships between parents and children, ongoing conflicts, and frequent disputes can lead to maladjustment in children. Additionally, moral breakdown within the family is one of the primary environmental factors that drive individuals toward addiction. Another significant factor is peer influence. Friends who share strong emotional bonds have a powerful impact on one another, especially if they are involved in delinquent behavior. Many addicts were introduced to substance abuse through bad company. Associating with addicts and spending time with them can lead to addiction, especially for individuals with weak personalities or little awareness of the dangers of addiction.

This issue is closely tied to ecological factors, which refer to areas known for delinquency and drug abuse. Environments filled with temptations and stimuli play a major role in addiction. Teenagers who run away from home, school, or work often seek out places that offer temptation. Similarly, densely populated slum areas with abandoned buildings provide an attractive setting for substance abuse.

Economic factors also have a significant direct influence on addiction. Higher-income individuals tend to use high-quality heroin, while those with lower incomes may turn to alcohol, cheap liquor, or even glue-sniffing. This is also linked to cultural and social factors, as different countries have varying approaches to drug regulations. For instance, some nations, like the Netherlands, allow the sale of limited amounts of addictive substances such as cannabis, leading to higher numbers of users compared to Islamic countries where such substances are strictly prohibited.

Furthermore, the role of cinema cannot be ignored as one of the most influential factors leading to addiction. Many movies glamorize a lifestyle of excess, often portraying the lives of drug addicts or dealers in a way that makes them seem appealing. Young viewers, especially teenagers, may be influenced by such portrayals and idolize these characters. Since movies are a popular form of entertainment among adolescents, they capture their attention and dominate their thoughts.

Table (1): Main Types of Family Problems and Their Characteristics

the problem	Definition	Characteristics
Children's deviance	Their departure from societal norms due to social, psychological, or economic factors leads them to engage in socially unacceptable behaviors such as violence, crime, or addiction.	-Weak parental supervision. Following bad companions. -Rebellion against laws and values. -School dropout. -Aggressive or criminal behavior.
Women's Work	Women's participation alongside men in the labor market across various professional fields, whether due to economic necessity or self-fulfillment.	-Achieving financial independence. -Improving the family's standard of living. -Contributing to economic development. -Facing challenges in balancing work and family. -Neglecting child upbringing and various family responsibilities.
Addiction	A state of compulsive dependence on consuming a substance or engaging in a certain behavior (such as drugs, alcohol, or the internet), leading to physical, psychological, and social harm.	-A constant need to increase the dose or frequency. -Negative impact on health and social relationships. -Psychological disorders such as anxiety and depression. -Aggressive and abnormal behaviors when deprived of the substance.

Source : Prepared by the researcher

2. Introduction to Family Crises

2.1 Definition of Family Crises :

A family crisis refers to situations that arise between one or more family members, leading to negative interactions accompanied by conflicting psychological and behavioral reactions. (Bin Amira, 2009, p. 10)

Some define it as a collection of problems resulting from various internal family causes, such as family conflicts, family disintegration, absence of a spouse, neglect by a spouse, differences in child-rearing styles, and disputes with in-laws. (Shuqair, 2002, p. 178) It is also described as negative situations that emerge among family members, and if they escalate, they can significantly impact family cohesion. (Bin Amira, 2009, p. 11)

2.2 Causes of Family Crises:

Family crises represent distressing events and situations that threaten the stability of the family unit, affecting its structure, internal relationships, and essential functions. These crises typically stem from various internal family dynamics. (Al-Kandari, 1992, pp. 205-206) identified the following causes:

- Lack of understanding between spouses: One of the primary causes is the inability of spouses to understand each other's psychology and personality traits, leading to rigid opinions and disregard for the other's perspective.

- Work and financial disputes: Disagreements may arise due to women's participation in the workforce, budget management, and whether financial responsibility should be shared or remain solely on the husband.
- Parental negligence in child-rearing: A key issue in modern families is the delegation of child-rearing to housemaids, particularly in Gulf societies.
- Marriages driven by financial or social gain: When one spouse fails to attain the expected material or social benefits, conflicts arise.
- Cultural shifts and modern influences: Some family crises stem from modern societal changes, such as excessive personal freedom for women, which may lead to disagreements when a spouse attempts to impose restrictions.
- Immaturity and early marriage: Many marital problems arise due to emotional and intellectual immaturity, particularly in cases of early marriage.
- Physical disabilities and health issues: Disabilities or chronic illnesses can create emotional and financial strains within the family, leading to dependency and, in some cases, financial hardship, pushing the spouse or even children into premature work.

2.3 Examples of Family Crises:

2.3.1 Divorce

Divorce is the legal termination of the marital relationship, resulting in the spouses no longer being lawfully bound to each other (Abu Alian, 2013, p. 160)

According to researchers, the primary causes of divorce include: (Rashwan, 2012, pp. 104-105)

- Sexual incompatibility: A lack of sexual harmony between spouses can escalate conflicts, making reconciliation difficult and leading to divorce.
- Romanticized and impulsive love before marriage: Many young people base their marriages on intense romantic emotions without considering real-life complexities, leading to difficulty in adaptation.
- Early marriage: Women who marry at a younger age are more likely to experience divorce than those who marry later.
- Women in the workforce: Working women, due to their exposure to external environments, tend to assert their rights, which can lead to increased disputes.
- Infidelity, hatred, or a second marriage: Marital betrayal, growing resentment, or a husband's decision to marry another woman can be major divorce factors.
- Health issues and infertility: A spouse's infertility, chronic illness, or disability can also contribute to marital breakdown.
- Neglect and substance abuse: Neglecting marital duties, alcohol consumption, and drug abuse are common reasons for divorce.
- Social and economic factors: Differences in educational, economic, or social status can lead to incompatibility. For instance, a university graduate marrying someone with significantly lower educational qualifications can create conflicts.
- According to (Al-Juwair, 2009, pp. 119-120) divorce can lead to:

- The end of sexual intimacy.
- Loss of security, friendship, and love.
- Lack of a parental role model, affecting children's upbringing.
- Increased responsibilities for the custodial parent, particularly in child-rearing.
- Financial difficulties, especially if the husband leaves or passes away.
- Redistribution of household duties and responsibilities.

2.3.2 Family Abuse:

Family abuse is defined as any form of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse that occurs within the context of a close relationship, most commonly between spouses. Domestic violence can take various forms, including intellectual, physical, sexual, and economic abuse, as well as the deprivation of freedom or the destruction of property, among others. In all these cases, the act is committed with the aim of exerting power and control. (Abu Asaad & Al-Khatatneh, 2014, p. 203)

Family abuse may be perpetrated by a husband against his wife or by a parent against their children and manifests in various forms, as mentioned by (Abu Asaad & Al-Khatatneh, 2014, pp. 204-208). Physical abuse includes any injury to a child that is not accidental, such as bruises, scratches, marks from hitting or punching, strangulation, biting, trampling, violent grabbing, hair-pulling, pinching, spitting, bone fractures, burns, internal injuries, or even fatal injuries. In the case of domestic physical violence directed at a wife, it may involve hitting, pinching, punching, slapping, violent grabbing, restraint, pushing, pulling, and kicking.

Verbal abuse also occurs in families and includes insulting, belittling, or humiliating a family member, raising one's voice, or shouting during conversations to dominate discussions and intimidate others into compliance. Economic abuse appears in the form of financial violence, such as depriving children of their daily allowance due to low academic performance, preventing a wife from working, forcing children or a wife to beg, or seizing the money of a wife, son, or daughter by one or more family members.

Psychological and emotional abuse takes many forms, including coercion and threats against a family member, threats of suicide or abandonment, forcing a family member to drop charges against another, constantly making a family member feel guilty for their mistakes, and using intimidation tactics. Lastly, neglect and abandonment manifest in leaving a family member alone for long periods while suffering from hunger, frail physical condition, or inappropriate clothing.

The motivations behind family abuse can be categorized into personal, economic, and social factors. Personal motivations stem from within the individual and drive them toward domestic violence. Economic motivations arise within the family environment, where the father does not intend to gain financial benefits from using violence against his family but rather vents his frustration and poverty through violent behavior. Social motivations are rooted in customs and traditions that dictate that a man must demonstrate his masculinity through violence and strength, as these traits are perceived as the measure of his manhood; otherwise, he is deemed unworthy of being considered a man. (Abu Asaad & Dardir, Family Counseling, 2015, pp. 305-306)

2.3.3 Economic Crises:

An economic crisis is a state of economic decline resulting from a drop in individuals' living standards, reduced purchasing power, and deprivation of basic life necessities such as education, healthcare, proper nutrition, and sports activities. Essentially, an economic crisis equates to poverty.

Poverty is defined as the inability to meet basic and biological needs that are essential for survival. It creates both social and psychological distress, as the poor suffer from a lack of power, money, education, and social status, which limits their mobility and choices. These conditions lead to social and psychological disabilities, increasing delinquency, juvenile crimes, and mortality rates. Furthermore, poor economic conditions within a family are a key factor in marriage breakdowns. (Rashwan, 2012, p. 105)

In developed and industrialized societies, the primary cause of poverty is unemployment. Unemployed individuals lose their source of income and live in poverty. However, unemployment takes multiple forms. Cyclical unemployment occurs due to natural or economic disasters, causing instability in an individual's income, fluctuating between employment and job loss, ultimately leading to financial hardship, especially as the cost of living and goods prices continue to rise.

There are also unemployed individuals with chronic physical illnesses, such as those who have lost a limb or suffer from neurological disorders. Additionally, some people are unemployed due to old age, retirement, or both. Another category includes those unable to work due to family dysfunction, where the head of the household is unemployed because they are preoccupied with ongoing family problems. Finally, there are those who are unemployed due to young age, which prevents them from entering the job market, such as students, early-married individuals, and those who live independently from their families. (Istitiya & Sarhan, 2012, pp. 74-75)

Table No. (2) Presents Examples of the Most Common Family Crises

The crisis	Definition	Characteristics
Divorce	Legally and religiously ending a marital relationship due to various issues that affect family and children's stability.	-Family disintegration and its impact on children. -Psychological and social disorders for both spouses. -Legal disputes over custody and alimony. -Increased burdens on one spouse due to child custody. -Economic impact on the financially weaker party.
Family abuse	A family member's use of physical, psychological, or emotional violence against another causes severe physical and psychological harm.	-Physical or verbal abuse within the family. -Negative impact on children's mental health. -Loss of sense of security at home. -Difficulty reporting violence due to cultural or social factors.
Economical crises	Financial pressures faced by the family due to unemployment or low income affect the family's standard of living and overall stability.	-Increased tension and conflicts between spouses. -Impact on individuals' health due to lack of resources. -Wife being forced to work to meet family needs. -Child labor or school dropout.

Source : Prepared by the researcher

What has been previously mentioned highlights that the family, which bears numerous functions and responsibilities—most importantly, providing for its members and raising them with proper moral and social values—is now facing several serious problems and crises that threaten its unity and stability. These challenges also affect its ability to cope with the daily social difficulties of life.

Below, we present recent and reliable statistics that illustrate the extent of the problems and crises affecting Algerian families over the past three years, emphasizing the need for greater efforts to address and mitigate their severity.

Table No. (3) Illustrates the Increasing Prevalence of Certain Family Problems and Crises in Algeria in Recent Years

Family problems and crises	Type of problem/crisis	2021	2022	2023
Addiction	Possession and consumption of drugs	41473 cases	73285 cases	52327 cases
	Number of addicts treated in detox centers	19701 10.93% females 89.07% males	27173 19.04% females 80.96% males	8658 19.99% females 74.39% males
Divorce	Divorce	76000 cases	84000 cases	93000 cases
Family abuse	Crimes against the family and public morals	/	4754 cases	5244 cases
	Violence against women within the family	5646 cases	4627 cases	/

Source : National Security / National Gendarmerie / Ministry of Justice / National Office of Statistics

3. Professional Intervention to Address Family Problems and Crises:

3.1 Social Welfare for Families:

Family social welfare programs aim to help individuals enjoy a satisfactory psychological and social life, assist them in participating in collective life, and contribute to society. These programs are categorized into:

- **Guidance Services:** Including pre-marital consultations regarding health and social aspects, helping spouses overcome marital issues, preventing family conflicts, understanding children's behavior, and guiding parents on how to develop positive relationships with their children.

- **Social Insurance and Assistance:** Such as social security benefits or financial aid in cases of poverty and old age.
- **Family Care System Adjustments:** Either through existing regulations or by introducing new measures to improve family welfare.
- **Housing and Settlement Services:** Addressing family housing needs, eliminating underdeveloped slum areas, and resettling residents. (Al-Gharaibeh, 2012, pp. 214-215)

3.2 Roles of the Family Social Worker:

A family social worker plays multiple roles to achieve family social service goals, including: (Salem & Al-Muqail, 2016, pp. 265-266)

A. Therapist Role

The social worker is responsible for studying and identifying the causes of family problems and working toward solutions.

B. Helper Role

The social worker helps families recognize their strengths and resources to achieve desired goals. This includes identifying available community services that meet their needs.

C. Interpreter, Clarifier, and Guide Role

The social worker explains family members' behaviors to promote understanding, strengthen family communication, and improve relationships.

D. Mediator Role

Mediating between family members to resolve misunderstandings and conflicts while also linking families with community institutions for support.

E. Service Provider Role

Ensuring that family members receive available institutional services to meet their needs.

3.3 Family Guidance and Counseling Offices:

The need for family guidance and counseling offices emerged when social reformers realized that many families face crises that weaken their social bonds, leading to disintegration. These offices aim to: (Al-Gharaibeh, 2012, pp. 222-224)

- Conduct systematic studies of family problems to determine causes and solutions.
- Direct families to relevant community services such as productive family projects and family planning centers.
- Raise family awareness before problems arise, using media to offer pre-marital counseling.
- Advise individuals on choosing life partners and planning for a stable marriage.



- Create a supportive family environment for children's healthy social upbringing by resolving marital disputes.
- Study modern approaches to family problem-solving from developed countries and apply suitable methods.

3.4 Family Counseling in Algeria

Like other Arab nations, Algeria prioritizes family welfare and stability through the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs. The ministry has launched several initiatives:

A. Online Family Counseling: A service provided by specialists, including psychologists and social workers, who assist families with social and family issues.

B. "Sanedcom" (SANEDCOM) Mobile Application: This app offers:

- **Family Counseling Services:** A platform for families to seek specialized guidance.
- **Family Cohesion Support:** Assisting families in overcoming challenges and maintaining stability.
- **Psychological Support:** Providing emotional and social assistance to family members.

Citizens can download *Sanedcom* on their smart devices, register, and access its services, enhancing direct communication with the ministry.

The efforts of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family, and Women's Affairs play a key role in strengthening family stability in Algeria through comprehensive programs and initiatives. These efforts reflect a strategic vision aimed at ensuring social cohesion and building a balanced and stable Algerian family.

Conclusion:

Family problems and crises are a natural part of life, but they also pose challenges to family stability. Seeking specialized family counseling can provide effective solutions for overcoming crises in a balanced way. Practical and organized intervention in family issues helps build resilient families capable of adapting to social challenges, ensuring psychological and social stability for all members, and contributing to the overall cohesion of society.

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