

# The Degree of Marital Compatibility and Family Stability during the Corona Pandemic According to a Number of Variables among a Sample of Married Couples in Irbid Governorate

Alquran, Nahla Mohammad Awad<sup>1</sup>

## Abstract

*The study aimed to identify the nature of differences in the degree of marital compatibility and family stability among a sample of married couples in Irbid Governorate according to demographic and personal variables (gender, age, duration of marriage, educational level). The descriptive approach was used for the study, the study sample consisted of (400) husbands and wives from all residents of Irbid Governorate who were drawn randomly. The results of the study showed statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of companionship according to the gender variable, as the value of (F) reached (3.864) with a statistical significance of (0.050) and in favor of males, There are statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of role participation between spouses according to the gender variable, as the value of (F) reached (89.216) with a statistical significance (0.000), in favor of females, there are no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the fields (the presence of disorders and the desire for separation and divorce, there are statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in family stability according to the variables (gender - age - duration of marriage - educational level).*

**Keywords:** *Marital Compatibility, Family Stability, Corona Virus Covid-19.*

## Introduction

The whole world was surprised by the Corona pandemic, the unexpected and hateful visitor that paralyzed the globe, as the world woke up to this epidemic, a deadly scourge of unknown origin, whose dimensions and effects are unknown.

Paula, (2020) stated that the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has profoundly changed people's daily lives and created multiple societal challenges. However, research on romantic relationships shows that external stressors can threaten the quality and stability of couples' relationships. Moreover, facing external stress associated with the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic is likely to increase harmful dyadic processes (e.g., hostility, withdrawal, less responsive support), which affects the quality of couples' relationships. These harmful effects are likely to be exacerbated by the broader pre-existing context in which couples' relationships exist (such as social class, age, minority status), and their individual vulnerabilities (such as depression). The study (Maiti, et al., 2020) also found that marital distress due to the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic turned into conflict.

(Mooradian et al., 2011) indicates that the stability of marital life depends on the extent to which the spouses adapt to the new variables that occur in their lives, and on the extent of their flexibility in changing their social roles to suit the nature of marital life. The spouses' keenness to comply with and adhere to the moral values to which they belong also contributes to the stability and continuity of marital life in achieving what is known as marital compatibility.

Several psychological theories have emerged to explain marital compatibility: such as psychoanalysis, behavioral theory, and self theory. These theories have varied in their explanation of marital compatibility. Analysts believe that projecting the bad experiences that one of the spouses is exposed to and applying them to reality leads to marital incompatibility, while behaviorists believe that incompatibility is behavioral

---

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychological and Educational Counseling, Faculty of Educational Sciences / Jadara University

patterns learned from others that can be modified, while self theory believes that a compatible individual is someone who is able to accept all perceptions, including his perceptions about himself (Abu Amra, 2011).

Marital compatibility is the natural outcome of the nature of interactions between spouses in various aspects of life (Clayton, 2014). Marital compatibility includes types such as psychological compatibility, moral compatibility, age compatibility, social compatibility, financial compatibility and intellectual compatibility. Marital compatibility has several aspects that require mutual satisfaction, emotionally, socially, economically, sexually, intellectually, culturally and religiously, leading to marital compatibility (Bylund et al, 2010). Gubbins et al, 2010, defined marital compatibility as: the ability of spouses to adapt to each other in an integrated system.

Barry (2006) adds some ways that contribute to achieving marital compatibility, and she summarizes them as the partner putting himself in the other party's place; getting to know his opinions and problems; cooperating positively with the family, and thinking about all the positive qualities of the partner; thinking about previous happy times during disagreements with the other partner; resorting to specialists or friends when marital problems occur, and not comparing the partner to others, i.e. being content with what he has and talking to the partner (Mansoor et al., 2024).

(Hobert, 2007) also pointed out that any dysfunction in family relationships leads to a state of psychological instability within the family, and that the spouses' lack of interest in addressing this dysfunction leads to the loss of many respects and positive emotions between them. The situation leads them to emotional separation, which causes many divisions between spouses in light of the continuation of married life, which reduces emotional compatibility between them. (Gottman, 1999) identified four behaviors that push marriage towards dissatisfaction; namely: frequent criticism that leads to contempt, which in turn generates a defensive position, and ultimately to an unwillingness to stay, and the absence of emotion between them. The spouses are considered incompatible or poorly compatible with each other; if the behaviors of each of them harm the other or deprive him of satisfying his needs or do not help him achieve their goals from marriage or spoil their marital relationship (Manning, et al, 2010).

Marriage is represented by the presence of two people, each with their own ideas and inclinations, and common denominators between them in order to achieve the goals of marriage, which are to establish a stable family, the ability of each of them to make the other partner happy, and each of them understanding the individual differences and distinctions between them (Basharpoor&Sheykholeslami, 2015); to achieve the concept of marriage, which states that it is: a social, economic, and legal covenant, and an emotional and religious commitment in which the husband and wife share their customs and expectations for each other and the feelings of intimacy and love that make each of the spouses seek to fulfill the needs of the other before his own needs (Barbara &Gynthia, 2010) )

### *Study Problem*

Marriage is the necessary social and psychological relationship for young men and women, which God has blessed because it is the sound legal basis for forming a family, and it is an institution that is universally accepted despite the diversity of cultures, religions and geographical diversity. Any crisis that affects humanity can always have direct and indirect effects on marriage around the world. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic seems to be no different, and its impact on marriages; with complications related to marital problems expected even after the pandemic ends. On the other hand, a strong marriage can be a major psychological support especially during times of crisis, as well as contribute to the emotional well-being of both individuals and families (Maiti et al., 2020)). This relationship may also be exposed to a set of changes and emergencies that may hinder its stability and cohesion, so it has become necessary to seize the available opportunities to emphasize the importance of family stability in society in light of the current crisis, as we have begun to notice a change in family behavior in general due to the long time that family members spend with each other inside the home, as most families gather for the first time for all their members for long hours in one place. In order to maintain a cohesive and connected family, marital compatibility must be the most important element that must be available between spouses in light of these

circumstances in order to achieve family stability and marital happiness to be a cohesive and connected society characterized by cohesion and stability. (Alquran & Almasri, 2022,)

Many studies have proven that marital compatibility is of great importance in the stability of the family and its feeling of psychological comfort and unifying the relationship between spouses towards understanding marital and sexual rights, and controlling simple and routine disputes between spouses with maturity and positivity. It also increases the ability of spouses to withstand the pressures of life and overcome the crises they face, which makes them happier. This is what was confirmed by the study (Al-Buraiki, 2016) that the Noble Sharia has paid attention to compatibility between spouses due to its great importance in strengthening the relationship between spouses, strengthening the bonds of love between them, and achieving family cohesion and stability; which contributes to reducing phenomena that threaten the family entity and its values, and thus threaten society with demolition and ruin. The study (Vanover, Bradley, 2016, Darawsheh, 2023) was conducted to examine what specialized marriage counselors believe are the main factors affecting marital success and satisfaction. The three main factors found in the study were: the presence of external support, effective communication, and the quality time that individuals spend in marriage together. A study (Belanger, et al., 2014) indicated that healthy relationships between spouses contribute positively to improving the psychological health of both partners.

Hence, the problem of the study emerged through the researcher's observations and their daily experience of the conditions experienced by the Jordanian family and the challenges it faces during home quarantine; to maintain its role as the main pillar for maintaining a cohesive and interconnected society in which sympathy, respect and responsibility prevail among its members; If marital compatibility and family stability are achieved during home quarantine between spouses, it will be reflected in society; and given the importance of this topic and the scarcity of studies that have addressed it, this study came as a new scientific addition to identify the degree of marital compatibility and family stability during the Corona pandemic according to a number of variables among a sample of married people in Irbid Governorate.

### *Study Questions*

The study problem can be identified by answering the following question:

Are there differences in the level of family stability according to the variable (gender, age, duration of marriage, and educational level)?

### *Importance of the Study*

Its importance is derived from the fact that it relates to family life during the Corona virus pandemic.

The study is an addition to the field of family and marital counseling.

This study focuses on the importance of the role that marital compatibility plays in family stability and protecting it from entering into family disputes.

The results of the study may provide information that contributes or is useful in building therapeutic and preventive counseling programs that may contribute to achieving family stability and improving marital relations

## **Study Methodology**

In the current study, the researcher used the descriptive comparative method to compare the degree of compatibility among a sample of married people in Irbid city according to the variables (gender, age, duration of marriage, and educational level).

*Study Community and Sample*

The current study community consisted of all married men and women in Irbid Governorate during the months of July, August and September of 2020; To ensure that the study community was well represented, the researcher selected a sample consisting of (400) husbands and wives, who were randomly selected from Irbid city, and Table (1) shows the distribution of sample members according to the variables of personal and demographic characteristics.

**Table (1).** Distribution of the Study Sample According to Personal and Demographic Variables

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	200	50.0
	Female	200	50.0
	Total	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age	20-30 years	77	19.3
	30-40years	128	32.0
	40-50years	120	30.0
	50-60years	66	16.5
	60+ years	9	2.3
	Total	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Marriage Period	Less than 1 year	9	2.3
	5-1years	60	15.0
	10-6years	76	19.0
	15-11years	71	17.8
	16 years and above	184	46.0
	Total	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Education Level	Secondary	106	26.5
	Diploma	51	12.8
	Bachelor's	155	38.8
	Postgraduate	88	22.0
	Total	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Study Tools*

To verify the study questions, the researcher used the following tools: -

*Initial Data Form*

The initial data form contains a number of general data, including: gender, age, duration of marriage, educational level (prepared by the researcher).

*Marital Compatibility Scale*

The marital compatibility scale developed by (Al-Anzi, 2010) was used. It is a self-report scale consisting of (82) statements distributed over five dimensions: (organizational dimension - personal dimension - emotional dimension - social dimension - cultural dimension). The scale statements have three response categories (happens often - happens rarely - never); and individuals' responses to the scale statements are corrected by giving scores (3-2-1) for positive statements while the scores are reversed, and (1-2-3) are corrected for negative statements, so that the total score of the scale expresses marital compatibility. The following classification was also relied upon to judge the arithmetic averages as follows: (from 1-1.66 low); (from 1.67-2.33 medium); (from 2.34 to 3.00 high).

*Family Instability Scale*

The Family Stability Scale developed by (Sahaf, 2016) was used. It is a self-report scale consisting of (31) statements distributed over five dimensions: (presence of disturbances and desire for separation and divorce mutual respect and communication - companionship - parental interference in the affairs of the spouses - sharing roles between the spouses). The scale statements have five-point response categories (strongly agree - somewhat agree - disagree - strongly disagree); and the responses of individuals to the scale statements are corrected by giving scores (5-4-3-2-1) for positive statements while the scores are reversed, and (1-2-3-4-5) are corrected for negative statements, so that the total score of the scale expresses family stability; the following classification was also relied upon to judge the arithmetic averages as follows: (less than 2.33 is low); (from 2.34-3.66 is medium); (from 3.67 to 5.00 is high)

*Stability of Study Tools*

In order to extract the stability of the study tool, the stability equation of the tool (Cronbach's alpha) was applied to all areas of the study and the tool as a whole for the survey sample of (50) individuals; Table (2) shows this.

**Table (2).** Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients for the Study Areas and The Tool As A Whole

The number	The field	Number of paragraphs	Cronbach's alpha coefficient
1	Having disorders and a desire for separation and divorce		
2	Respect and mutual communication		
3	Accompanying		
4	Parental interference in couple's affairs		
5	Role sharing between spouses		
	Family instability as a whole scale		
1	Organizational Dimension		
2	Personal Dimension		
3	Emotional Dimension		
4	Social Dimension		
5	Cultural Dimension		
	Marital Compatibility Scale as a Whole		

Table (2) shows the following:

Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the family instability scale ranged between (0.78-0.93), the highest of which was for the field of "the presence of disturbances and the desire for separation and divorce", and the lowest of which was for the field of "sharing roles between spouses", and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the family instability scale as a whole was (0.93).

Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the marital compatibility scale ranged between (0.73-0.88), the highest of which was for the field of "cultural dimension", and the lowest of which was for the field of "organizational dimension", and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the marital compatibility scale as a whole was (0.91), and all the retest reliability coefficients are high and acceptable for the purposes of the study

*Study Results*

The study question states: "Are there differences in the level of family stability according to the variable (gender, age, duration of marriage, and educational level)?" To answer this question, the multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA) was applied to reveal the differences between the arithmetic means in the level of family stability, represented by (the presence of disorders and the desire for separation and divorce, mutual

respect and communication, companionship, parental interference in the affairs of the spouses, participation in roles between the spouses) according to the variables (gender, age, duration of marriage, and educational level) and the analysis of variance (ANOVA) was applied to reveal the differences between the means in the scale as a whole according to these variables, and the tables below illustrate this

**Table (3).** Results of Multiple Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) to Detect Differences in The Level of Family Stability According to Variables (Gender, Age, Duration of Marriage, And Educational Level)

Variable	Pattern	sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean square	F value	Statistical significance
Hotelling value (sex Value (0.276) F (20.882) (Sig (0.000))	The presence of disturbances and desire In separation and divorce	.044	1	.044	.081	.776
	Respect and mutual communication	.975	1	.975	1.791	.182
	Accompanying	2.143	1	2.143	3.864	.050
	Parents' interference in spouses' affairs	.859	1	.859	.883	.348
	Participation in roles between spouses	77.974	1	77.974	89.216	.000
Hotelling value (eag Value (0.872) F (2.655) Sig (0.000))	The presence of disturbances and desire In separation and divorce	6.531	4	1.633	2.980	.019
	Respect and mutual communication	.479	4	.120	.220	.927
	Accompanying	2.504	4	.626	1.129	.342
	Parents' interference in spouses' affairs	13.278	4	3.320	3.412	.009
	Participation in roles between spouses	13.986	4	3.497	4.001	.003
Hotelling value (Duration of marriage ) Value (0.875) F (2.583) Sig (0.000))	The presence of disturbances and desire In separation and divorce	7.848	4	1.962	3.581	.007
	Respect and mutual communication	2.950	4	.737	1.355	.249
	Accompanying	5.858	4	1.465	2.641	.034
	Parents' interference in spouses' affairs	3.811	4	.953	.979	.419
	Participation in roles between spouses	5.240	4	1.310	1.499	.202
Hotelling )value Educational level Value (0.921) F (2.103) (Sig (0.008))	The presence of disturbances and desire In separation and divorce	3.846	3	1.282	2.340	.073
	Respect and mutual communication	4.536	3	1.512	2.778	.041
	Accompanying	1.891	3	.630	1.136	.334
	Parents' interference in spouses' affairs	6.645	3	2.215	2.277	.079
	Participation in roles between spouses	10.000	3	3.333	3.814	.010
Error	The presence of disturbances and desire In separation and divorce	209.301	382	.548		
	Respect and mutual communication	207.885	382	.544		
	Accompanying	211.849	382	.555		
	Parents' interference in spouses' affairs	371.606	382	.973		
	Participation in roles between spouses	333.865	382	.874		
Corrected error	The presence of disturbances and desire In separation and divorce	250.726	399			
	Respect and mutual communication	227.963	399			
	Accompanying	234.634	399			



Parents' interference in spouses' affairs	415.886	399			
Participation in roles between spouses	461.222	399			

The following appears from Table 3:

There are statistically significant differences at the level of significance ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of accompaniment according to the gender variable, where the value of (F) reached (3.864) and with statistical significance (0.050), and in favor of males, where the arithmetic mean reached (4.34), while it reached (4.10) for females. ).

There are statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of participation in roles between spouses according to the gender variable, where the (F) value reached (89.216) and with statistical significance (0.000), and in favor of females, where the arithmetic mean reached (3.51), while For males, it was (2.57).

There are no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the areas (the presence of disorders and the desire to separate and divorce, mutual respect and communication, and family intervention in the spouses' affairs) according to the gender variable, as the "F" value did not reach the level of statistical significance.

There are statistically significant differences at the level of significance ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of the presence of disorders and the desire to separate and divorce according to the age variable, where the (F) value reached (2.980) and is statistically significant (0.019).

There were statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of parental interference in the affairs of spouses according to the age variable, as the value of (F) reached (3.412) with a statistical significance of (0.009).

There were statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of participation in roles between spouses according to the age variable, as the value of (F) reached (4.001) with a statistical significance of (0.003).

There were no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the fields of (respect and mutual communication, companionship) according to the age variable, as the value of "F" did not reach the level of statistical significance.

There were statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of the presence of disorders and the desire for separation and divorce according to the variable of marriage duration, as the value of (F) reached (3.581) with a statistical significance of (0.007).

There were statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of companionship according to the variable of marriage duration, where the value of (F) reached (2.641) with a statistical significance of (0.034).

There were no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the fields of (respect and mutual communication, family interference in the affairs of the spouses, participation in roles between the spouses) according to the variable of marriage duration, where the value of "F" did not reach the level of statistical significance.

There were statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of respect and mutual communication according to the variable of educational level, where the value of (F) reached (2.778) with a statistical significance of (0.041).

There were statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the field of role participation between spouses according to the educational level variable, as the value of (F) reached (3.814) with a statistical significance of (0.010).

There were no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the fields (presence of disorders and desire for separation and divorce, companionship, parental interference in the affairs of spouses) according to the educational level variable, as the value of "F" did not reach the level of statistical significance.

To detect the locations of the differences, the Scheffe test was applied, and the tables below illustrate this.

**Table (4).** Results of The Scheffe Test to Detect the Locations of Differences in the Areas According to the Age Variable

Domain	Age	Number	Arithmetic Mean	20-30 years	30-40 years	40-50 years	50-60 years	+60
Having disorders and desire for separation and divorce	years 20-30	77	4.22		0.01-	0.13-	0.42-	0.03
	years 30-40	128	4.23		-	0.12-	0,41-	0.38-
	years 40-50	120	4.35			-	0.29-	0.26-
	years 50-60	66	4.64				-	0.03
	+60	9	4.61					-
Parental interference in the couple's affairs	years 20-30	77	3.79		0.19-	0.52-	0.61-	0.62-
	years 30-40	128	3.98		-	0.33-	0.42-	0.43-
	years 40-50	120	4.31			-	0.09-	0.1-
	years 50-60	66	4.40				-	0.01-
	+60	9	4.41					-
Participation in roles between spouses	years 20-30	77	3.19		0.13-	0.18	0,27	0.66-
	years 30-40	128	3.32			0,31	0,4	0.53-
	years 40-50	120	3.01				0,09	0.84 -
	years 50-60	66	2.92					0.93-
	+60	9	3.85					

Table (4) shows the following

There are differences in the field of the presence of disorders and the desire for separation and divorce between the category (from 20-30 years) with an arithmetic mean (4.22) and the category (from 50-60 years) with an arithmetic mean (4.64), and the differences were in favor of the category (from 50-60 years).

There are differences in the field of parental interference in the affairs of spouses between the category (from 20-30 years) with an arithmetic mean (3.79) and the category (over 60 years) with an arithmetic mean (4.41), and the differences were in favor of the category (over 60 years).

There are differences in the field of participation in roles between spouses between the category (from 50-60 years) with an arithmetic mean (2.92) and the category (over 60 years) with an arithmetic mean (3.85), and the differences were in favor of the category (over 60 years)

**Table (5).** Results of The Scheffe Test to Detect the Locations of Differences in The Fields According to The Variable of Marriage Duration.

Domain	marriage duration	Number	Arithmetic Mean	5-1 years	10-6 years	15-11 years	15+
Having disorders and desire for separation and divorce	Less 1 year	9	3.62	0.71	0.55-	0.87-	0.77-
	years 5-1	60	4.33		0.16	0.16-	0.06-
	years 10-6	76	4.17			0.32-	0.22-



	years 15-11	71	4.49				0.1
	15+	184	4.39				
Accompanying	Less than 1 year	9	4.11	0.18	0.03-	0.15-	0.06-
	years 5-1	60	4.29		0.15	0.03	0.12
	years 10-6	76	4.14			0.12-	0.03-
	years 15-11	71	4.26				0.09
	15+						
			184	4.17			

Table (5) shows the following:

There are differences in the field of the presence of disorders and the desire for separation and divorce between the category (less than one year) with an arithmetic mean (3.62) and the category (from 11-15 years) with an arithmetic mean (4.49), and the differences were in favor of the category (from 11-15 years).

There are differences in the field of companionship between the category (less than one year) with an arithmetic mean (4.11) and the category (from 1-5 years) with an arithmetic mean (4.29), and the differences were in favor of the category (from 1-5 years) To accompany

**Table (6).** Results of The Scheffe Test to Detect the Locations of Differences in The Fields According to The Educational Level Variable.

Domain	Educational level	Number	Arithmetic Mean	Secondary	Diploma	Bachelor's	Postgraduate
Respect and mutual communication	Secondary	106	4.04		0	0.18-	0.06
	Diploma	51	4.04			0.18-	0.06
	Bachelor's	155	4.22				0.24
	Postgraduate	88	3.98				
Role sharing between spouses	Secondary	106	3.32		0.16	0.23	0.46
	Diploma	51	3.48			0.39	0.62
	Bachelor's	155	3.09				0.23
	Postgraduate	88	2.86				

Table (6) shows the following:

There are differences in the field of mutual respect and communication between the category (Bachelor) with an arithmetic mean (4.22) and the category (Postgraduate) with an arithmetic mean (3.98), and the differences were in favor of the category (Bachelor).

There are differences in the field of role participation between spouses between the category (Diploma) with an arithmetic mean (3.48) and the category (Postgraduate) with an arithmetic mean (2.86), and the differences were in favor of the category (Diploma).

ANOVA was also applied to reveal the differences between the averages in the scale as a whole according to the variables (gender, age, duration of marriage, and educational level), and Table (7) shows this.

**Table (7).** Results of the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) To Reveal the Differences in The Level of Family Stability as A Whole According to the Variables (Gender, Age, Duration of Marriage, and Educational Level).

Variable	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom	Mean square	F value	Significance Level
Gender	.104	1	.104	.310	.578
age	2.762	4	.690	2.070	.084
Duration of marriage	3.369	4	.842	2.526	.040
Educational level	2.491	3	.830	2.490	.060
error	127.384	382	.333		
total	144.787	399			

Table (7) shows the following:

There are statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the level of family stability as a whole according to the variable of marriage duration, where the value of (F) reached (2.526) with a statistical significance of (0.040).

There are no statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the level of family stability as a whole according to the variables (gender, age, marriage duration, educational level), where the value of "F" did not reach the level of statistical significance. To detect the locations of the differences, the Scheffe test was applied, and the tables below illustrate this

**Table (8).** Results of The Scheffe Test to Detect the Locations of Differences in The Level of Family Stability as A Whole According to The Variable of Marriage Duration.

marriage duration	Number	Arithmetic mean	Less than 1 year	years 5-1	10-6 years	15-11 years	15+
Less than 1 year	9	3.81		0.3-	0.14-	0.39-	0.33-
years 5-1	60	4.11			0.16	0.09-	0.03-
10-6 years	76	3.95				0.25-	0.19-
15-11 years	71	4.20					0.06
15+	184	4.14					

Table (8) shows that there are differences in the level of family stability as a whole between the category (less than one year) with an arithmetic mean of (3.81) and the category (from 11-15 years) with an arithmetic mean of (4.20), and the differences were in favor of the category (from 11-15 years)

## Discussion of the Results

The level of marital stability was high among the sample as a whole; this is evidence of the existence of marital compatibility among married couples in Irbid Governorate, as divorce and marital separation are still surrounded by a negative social stigma, which makes married couples very keen on the continuation and stability of the marital relationship. Therefore, it is difficult to think about separation except when things become complicated and the relationship between the spouses cracks, which makes it difficult to find middle ground solutions that satisfy the spouses. The characteristics of the sample also played a role in the high level of marital stability and compatibility, as it is educated and has the psychological and cognitive maturity that enables it to rise above everything that spoils its security and reassurance. Therefore, there is appreciation for the marital relationship and the family in particular, considering that it is the first

building block for building societies and protecting its members from homelessness. The educational level of the sample members also provided the ability to discuss, talk and communicate with their partners about the ideas and concepts that each of them adopts, and this strengthened their emotional side; The openness of some couples to foreign cultures has broken a large part of the culture of shame and routine in the marital relationship that was prevalent in traditional Jordanian society until recently.

The researcher also attributes these results to the fact that married men and women are all children of one geographical area and are expected to face the same family, economic and cultural situations and circumstances. Therefore, their behavior is governed by the prevailing customs, traditions, values and social standards that establish the family and achieve its stability and harmony. The study also showed through the stability of the arithmetic averages and the significance of the differences that the level of marital harmony and stability among males is more keen to care about the safety of marital life by maintaining the components of marital harmony and stability and practicing them throughout the course of marital and family life.

The researcher attributes the increase in the rate of marital compatibility and stability to many factors, the most important of which is the duration of marriage. The long duration creates familiarity, mutual dependence, and personality maturity for the spouses, making them more capable of understanding each other and more able to communicate. This makes marriage achieve the goals and functions for which it was established, namely stability and psychological security. As the years of marriage pass, new trends towards marriage develop in the spouses. The shared experience between the spouses provides them with a strong bond, creating a world of their own in which they exchange give and take, and share in facing crises and resolving disputes.

The age group of the sample (31-49) is where the person at this stage has reached his peak and his thinking has settled on rationality and realism and considers his previous experiences and endures his struggle with life until he realizes the success he aspires to, achieves goals and tries to avoid negatives and obstacles and the problems and pressures he faces socially, psychologically and in public relations. Increasing age increases marital compatibility and this is due to the husband's awareness and better perception of life as a result of his advanced age, as he is characterized by a kind of stability in his marital life. This is consistent with the study of Salami (2019) which concluded that there are no differences in marital compatibility according to the variables (age - educational level - number of years of marriage). And the study (Ningsih&Herawati, 2017) which indicated the existence of a correlation between the age of the husband and wife when engaged and marital compatibility and family functions and family cohesion. With the study of Al-Khataybah (2015) which indicated that the level of marital compatibility among males is higher than that of females, this is due to males' keenness to maintain the components of marital compatibility and their conscious understanding of them. And the study of Al-Mahdi (2015) which showed that the level of marital compatibility was high, with differences in the averages of marital compatibility between husbands and wives in favor of husbands. And with the study of (Blan and Sofi, 2013), While the study of the darawsheh (2024) obtained an average grade.)

Which proved that there is a statistically significant relationship between marital compatibility and the educational level of the spouses, as compatibility increases with the convergence of the educational level between the spouses. With the study of Fariza (2013) whose results concluded that the more there is a difference in the educational and cultural level between the spouses, their compatibility is low. And the study of (Muhammad, 2012) which concluded that there are differences in marital compatibility attributed to the variable of educational level, while it proved that there are no differences in family cohesion attributed to the variable of educational level and age. And with the study of Al-Khalidi and colleagues (2012) which indicated the existence of an increase in the degrees of marital compatibility; and the existence of differences attributed to the variable of age in favor of the two girls (younger - older), and the existence of differences attributed to the educational level in favor of women who hold a general secondary certificate or less.

## References

- Abu Omrah, Akram (2011). Marital Satisfaction as Perceived by Children and its Relationship to Moral Maturity among Secondary School Students in Gaza City. Master's thesis, Al-Azhar University, Gaza branch.
- Al-Buraiki, Hassan (2016). Marital Satisfaction and its Impact on Family Stability. *Journal of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Qatar University*, Volume 33, Issue 2.
- Ballan, Kamal and Sophie, Aman (2013). Marital compatibility and its relationship to some variables among a sample of couples in the city of Latakia. *Tishreen University Journal for Research and Scientific Studies, Arts and Humanities Series*, Volume 35, Number 4
- Jiballah, Siham Abdullah Hassan (2006). Marital compatibility and its relationship to criteria for choosing a spouse and some other variables. Master's thesis, Omdurman Islamic University.
- Al-Khalidi, Maryam; Al-Khatib, Bilal; Al-Raqad, Hana, and Al-Anani, Hanan (2012). Marital Satisfaction among a Sample of Working and Non-Working Jordanian Women and its Relationship to Age and Educational Level, *Al-Azhar University Journal for Research - Humanities, Egypt*, (149), 1-27.
- Al-Khattabiya, Youssef Damen (2015). Components of compatibility in marital life and its relationship to social factors - a study on a sample of couples working in public schools in northern Jordan. *Humanities and Social Science Studies*, 42(2): 371-389.
- Hello, Dalal (2019). The relationship of marital compatibility with some demographic variables - a field study of a sample of married couples in the state of El Oued, *Al-Shamel Journal of Educational and Social Sciences, Shahid Hama Lakhdar El Oued University*, 1 (2), 39-5
- Al-Samihain. (2018). Marital Satisfaction of Educational Counselors and its Relationship to Certain Variables. *Educational Science Studies*, 45(4)-Supplement 5, 497-507.
- Sahhaf, Kholoud. (2016). Marital Satisfaction and its Relationship to Family Stability among a Sample of Married Couples in the Holy City of Makkah. Master's Thesis in Psychological Counseling, Umm Al-Qura University - Makkah.
- Al-Anzi, Farhan. (2010). The Role of Thinking Methods, Partner Selection Criteria and Some Demographic Variables in Achieving the Level of Marital Compatibility among a Sample of Saudi Society, unpublished master's thesis, Umm Al-Qura University - Makkah.
- Fariza, pregnant (2013). Differences in educational, cultural, and economic levels and their relationship to the marital compatibility of working spouses, unpublished master's thesis, MouloudMammeri University: Al-Jaza'iz.
- Muhammad, Nafisa (2012). Marital compatibility and its relationship to family cohesion in light of some variables: Master's thesis, University of Gezira.
- Melhem, Mohammed; Hayajna, Walid; BaniArsheed, Abdullah; Badrana, Mahdi; and Amber, Amira. (2020). The Relationship between Psychological Resilience and Marital Adjustment among a Sample of Married Male and Female teachers - A Predictive Study, *Jordanian Journal of Social Sciences*,13(1),81-96.
- Al-Mahdi, Bushra; (2015). Communication Skills and their Relationship to Marital Satisfaction among a Sample of Couples in the State of Khartoum, unpublished master's thesis, University of Khartoum
- Nofal, Rabei; Saqr, Mona; And Arafat, names. (2018). Marital compatibility and its relationship to life satisfaction among a sample of married women, *Arab Research Journal in the Fields of Specific Education*, No. (12), 315-279.
- Alquran,Nahla,&Almasri,Anas,(2022)Marital Satisfaction And Its Role In Family Stability During The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic In A sample Of Married Couples In Irbid Governorate. *Journal Of Positive School Psychology 2022*, Vol. 6, NO. 8, 2627-2639
- ALAwAm,A ,Al Ajmi,H , Darawsheh,N , Alrashdan,H , Alkailanee,KH, almheiri,A , Aldarmaki,I , Darawsheh,O , and Ola,O.(2024).Analyzing Student's Perceptions about the Values of Digital Citizenship, *Journal of Statistics Applications & Probability An International Journal*, 13, (4), 1279-1288
- Barbara.A.R, &Gunthia, B.(2010). *Marriage and Family, A Christian Perspective*. 2nd edition).USA: Triangle Publishing
- Barry, C. (2006).Adjustment, Retrieved 20/8/2020 Available at [www.yahoo.com/adj/htm/](http://www.yahoo.com/adj/htm/).
- Basharpoor. S &Sheykhdslami. A. (2015). The Relation of Marital Adjustment and Family Functions with Quality of Life in Women. *Journal of Psychology*, 11(3), 432-441.
- Belanger.C; Dischiavi.M; Sabacrin, S.; Baalbaki; G.,Lussier,Y.(2014).Self-esteem, Coping Efforts and marital Adjustment, *Europe's Journal of Psychology*,10(4),660-671.
- Bylund, C. Baxter, L. A. James. R.S &Wolf, B. (2010). Parental Rule Socialization for Preventive Health and Adolescent Rule Compliance. *Family Relations*, 59(1), 1-13.
- Clayton, R. (2014). The Third Wheel: The Impact of Twitter Use on Relationship Infidelity and Divorce. *Cyber Psychology, Behavior & Social Networking*, 17(7), 425- 430
- Gubbins, C. A., Perosa, L. M., &Bartle-Haring, S. (2010). Relationships Between Married Couples Self-Differentiation Individuation and Gottman's Model of marital Interactions. *Contemporary Therapy: An International Journal*, 32(4), 383-395.
- Hobert, D. (2007). Current patterns of parental authority. *Developmental Psychology Monographs*, 4(1), 1-103.
- Mansoor, M., Paul, J., Saeed, A., & Cheah, J. H. (2024). When mass meets prestige: The impact of symbolic motivations, inspirations, and purchase intentions for Masstige products. *Journal of Business Research*, 176, 114591.

- Maiti, T, S. Singh, R. Innamuri, & A.D. Hasija (2020). Marital distress during COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown: a brief narrative. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 8(2), 426-433. DIP:18.01.257/20200802, DOI:10.25215/0802.257
- Manning, W. D.; Trella, D.; Lyons, H.; & Dutoit, N.C.(2010). Marriageable Women: A Focus on Participants in Community Health Marriage Program. *Family Relations*, 59(1), 87-102.
- Mooradian, J; Timm, T.; Hock, R & Jackson, R.(2011). It's About Us : Marital Adjustment and Marital Adaptation in Couples Who Adopt children from the Child Welfare System. *Journal of Family Social Work*, 14(3), 262-280.
- Ningsih, D.; & Herawati, T.(2017). The Influence of Marital Adjustment and Family Functions on Family Strength in Early Marriage. *Journal of Family Science*, 2(2), 23-33.
- Darawsheh, N.; Alkailanee, K.; Alquran, N.; AL-Dawuod, T.; Nawafleh, M.; and Jaradat, H. (2023) "Leading with Love and Its Relationship to Faculty Members Job Loyalty in Jordanian Universities," *Information Sciences Letters*: 12 (8), 2511-2520 (2023)
- Darawsheh, N.; Al-Khataybeh, M.; Alrashdan, H.; Drawsheh, S; Grarh, A; and dogush, M (2024). "Coexistence skills among mothers of children with multiple disabilities in the northern region of Jordan (IRBID)," *Journal of Statistics Applications & Probability*: 13( 2), 665-680
- Paula. R. Pietromonaco. (2020). Applying Relationship Science to Evaluate How the COVID-19 Pandemic May Impact Couples' Relationships, *American Psychologist*, DOI: 10.1037/amp0000714 University of Massachusetts Amherst and Nickola Overall, University of Auckland
- Vanover, Bradley. (2016). Important Factors in Marital Success and Satisfaction: Marriage Counselors' Perspectives. - Retrieved from Sophia, the St. Catherine University repository website: [https://sophia.stkate.edu/msw\\_papers/685](https://sophia.stkate.edu/msw_papers/685).