

## The Effect of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity from the point of view of Yarmouk University students

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Received: 17/1/2024

Revised: 8/2/2024

Accepted: 4/3/2024

Published online: 2/2/2025

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Citation: Tashtoush, R. A., Al-Natour, A. S., & Bani Amer, S. A. M. (2025). The Effect of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity from the point of view of Yarmouk University students. *Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences*, 52(3), 6684.

<https://doi.org/10.35516/hum.v52i3.6684>



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### Abstract

**Objective:** The study aimed at exploring the effect of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity among Yarmouk University students as Perceived by them.

**Method:** The study sample consisted of (1500) male and female students of Yarmouk University who were randomly selected. To achieve the objectives of the study, the descriptive analytical design was used through the use of the national identity scale. The data were statistically dealt with by calculating the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and multiple variance analysis (MANOVA).

**Results:** The study found that the impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity among Yarmouk University students as perceived by them was high. Moreover, the results of the study showed that there were no statistically significant differences in the means of Yarmouk University students' responses on all dimensions of the national identity scale due to the variables: gender and college, while there were statistically significant differences in the means of Yarmouk University students' responses on all dimensions of the national identity scale due to the residence variable, as these differences were among residents of villages.

**Conclusions:** The results were discussed in light of theoretical and empirical literature review, The study recommends that attention should be given to the creation of a generation committed to the concepts of national identity, especially in the era of globalization, openness and challenges to national identity, it is necessary to intensify the university's efforts to consolidate the principle of national identity among university students.

**Keywords:** Syrian asylum, Jordanian National Identity, Yarmouk University Students.

### أثر اللجوء السوري في الهوية الوطنية الأردنية من وجهة نظر طلبة جامعة اليرموك

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### ملخص

**الأهداف:** هدفت الدراسة إلى استكشاف أثر اللجوء السوري في الهوية الوطنية الأردنية من وجهة نظر طلبة جامعة اليرموك. **المنهجية:** تكونت عينة الدراسة من (1500) طالب وطالبة من طلبة جامعة اليرموك تم اختيارهم عشوائياً. ولتحقيق أهداف الدراسة، استخدم المنهج الوصفي المسحي من خلال استخدام مقياس الهوية الوطنية. وقد تمت معالجة البيانات إحصائياً عن طريق حساب المتوسطات الحسابية، والانحرافات المعيارية، وتحليل التباين المتعدد (MANOVA). **النتائج:** توصلت الدراسة إلى أن أثر اللجوء السوري في الهوية الوطنية الأردنية من وجهة نظر طلبة جامعة اليرموك كان بدرجة مرتفعة، وأظهرت نتائج الدراسة عدم وجود فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية في متوسطات استجابات طلبة جامعة اليرموك على جميع أبعاد مقياس الهوية الوطنية تعزى لمتغيري: الجنس والكلية، بينما كان هنالك فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية في متوسطات استجابات طلبة جامعة اليرموك على جميع أبعاد مقياس الهوية الوطنية تعزى لمتغير الإقامة، إذ كانت هذه الفروق لسكان القرى.

**الخلاصة:** نوقشت النتائج في ضوء الأدب النظري والدراسات السابقة، وتوصي الدراسة بضرورة الاهتمام بإنشاء جيل ملتزم بمفاهيم الهوية الوطنية وخاصة في عصر العولمة والانفتاح وما تواجهه الهوية الوطنية من تحديات، فمن الواجب تكثيف جهود الجامعة في ترسيخ مبدأ الهوية الوطنية لدى طلبة الجامعات.

**الكلمات الدالة:** اللجوء السوري، الهوية الوطنية الأردنية، طلبة جامعة اليرموك

## 1. Introduction

Since 2011, the world has witnessed large waves of Syrian refugees as a result of the events taking place in Syria. Jordan is one of the countries that has deliberately received large numbers of Syrians, despite its difficult economic conditions, based on the humanitarian, moral, religious, and national values rooted within the approach of the Hashemite leadership.

This Syrian asylum represents the largest wave affecting Jordan, as a result of the huge numbers of Syrians who resorted to it and settled in its cities and villages, which had a great impact on the national identity of Jordanians in its various components and national entitlements.

The war in Syria caused the formation of inhuman conditions, as hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives, and others were forced to leave their homes and migrate to distant places outside Syria, and the political and humanitarian aspects of this crisis have turned the issue into a global problem. According to the United Nations reports indicate that more than (5) five million Syrians were forced to leave their country, with Syrians who were dissatisfied with their situation in neighboring countries trying to reach European countries (Paksoy, 2022).

Jordan is one of the countries that started receiving a large number of Syrians since 2011 as a result of the armed conflict and the ongoing war in Syria. It hosted tens of thousands of refugees in a number of special camps prepared for this, while other large numbers were hosted in a number of districts in the Kingdom. The Syrian refugees have become partners with Jordanian citizens and competed with them for job opportunities, health care, housing and other matters (Al-Saud, 2019).

Saaida and Tasleem (2019) indicate that the influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan has caused negative repercussions on it, as it led to an increase in the population by at least 8% and affected all aspects of life. Among the most prominent effects of the presence of thousands of refugees are the competitions over the resources and opportunities provided to the Jordanian people, the deterioration of public financial performance, the imposition of many burdens on the state budget, and the exhaustion of services in all sectors.

According to the UN Charter issued in 1951, asylum is the act of an individual's residency outside his homeland as a result of a justified fear of being persecuted for ethnic reasons, religion, nationality, or belonging to a particular group, and therefore he is unable to benefit from the country's protection for him (Obaid, Moussawi, and Al-Zoubi, 2020). Jamal (2021) defined Asylum as a state in which an individual migrates to another country for fear of remaining in their country as a result of persecution due to his race, religion, affiliation, opinions, or as a result of the ongoing war in his country.

Whereas Syrian asylum is defined as the process of the state granting protection in its territory to a group of Syrian citizens, as a result of fleeing the internal conflicts taking place in Syria or as a result of any problems that led to a disruption in the public order of the state (Miqdadi, Al-Qaoud, & Tawalbeh, 2018).

There is no doubt that society, in general, deliberately leads a normal life in which stability, balance and relative harmony among its various groups. However, society cannot remain absolutely stable and balanced absolutely if it is exposed to situations of anxiety and stress that negatively affect it, which must be dealt with and confronted in order to protect society from disintegration (Turkeya, 2015).

Due to the exposure of Syrian society to a set of distortions of psychological, ideological and social dimensions, which led to the displacement of the members of this society towards narrow circles of affiliation associated with a particular sect, political, sectarian or ethnic orientation, the relationship between the Syrian citizen and his political system has become weak. Taking into consideration that many members of this community have sought refuge in Jordan, these distortions may have a range of far-reaching effects on Jordanian society, as this presence and the multiplicity of its sub-cultures could have a role in shaping the ground for extremism as a result of weakening the national identity. Consequently, Jordan must look for ways to protect its system and the national identity of its citizens (Al-Sarhan and Al-Qadi, 2017; Haynes, 2016).

In Social Psychology, Tasdemir (2018) suggests that asylum processes affect the states of national identity and The Associated civil, cultural and ethnic aspects, The Associated concepts of norms related to being a citizen, a sense of responsibility towards the country, as well as the criteria used to describe who "we" are as citizens. Al-Hourani (2017) adds that asylum processes may represent a violation of the entitlements of national identity, as citizens tend to interact with

them as a threat to their existence that affects their legal value, and Syrian asylum and its consequent economic and social effects, for many citizens, it represents a threat to their national identity.

The national identity of any society is closely linked to external influences, as well as scientific ideas and cultures that develop and interact with the future, and are considered closed in on themselves at the same time. This development and interaction does not intend to cancel it, but rather makes it of effective value, since identity represents the history of society, its acquisitions, values, customs, and prevailing customs (Obaid, Al-Mousawi, and Al-Zoubi, 2020).

According to Taeab (2017), identity represents one of the most controversial concepts in this era, and the most intertwined and overlapping in cognitive and conceptual contexts. Given the seriousness of this concept in many societies, especially those characterized by ethnic and sectarian pluralism, it is considered a difficult and complex issue, due to its great connection to the ideology, psychology, and awareness of the individual in society and the extent of his adherence to his identity.

Al-Ayasrah (2019) also points out that this concept is related to the concept of social integration, which in turn forms the basis of citizenship, that instills feelings of loyalty and belonging and belonging to the state's political system, deepens their sense of duty towards their society, and establishes the concepts of cooperation, brotherhood and cohesion among them, and devotes them Principles of respect for existing regulations and instructions.

National identity is a set of factors, the basis of which is a political identity based on affiliation and loyalty to the central authority which is granted to the individual in his individual capacity, and to society as representing a group of bonds, based on loyalty, interests, and a common destiny. Its presence guarantees the group's continuity, and its disappearance leads to the group's disintegration (Greenfeld & Eastwood, 2007). National identity is defined as the state of consciousness formed in the members of the group, which is associated with a set of common qualities, charged with meanings, emotions and belonging to the group, and is considered a continuous feeling in the present and future (Jaradat, 2012).

In his study Saihi (2021) stresses that national identity represents the safety valve against difference and division, and that it is a means to bring about harmony between the various classes of society. Consequently, there is a need to pay attention to it and ensure its stability among all members of society of various categories and ages; in order to achieve the reassurance of these individuals on the components of their authenticity, their culture and their intellectual system, which in turn leads to achieving security and stability and eliminating the various forms of fear and turmoil. In this context, Al-Saher and Al-Tarawneh (2019) add that the most important aspects of identity are those that are transmitted within the group, and that these aspects maintain their vitality based on their continuous contribution to preserving the national identity. Practically, it is difficult to disentangle the strong bond between the identity of the individual and the identity of the group, as it is a natural mechanism that strengthens the link between the individual and the group on several levels.

Parekh (2002) points out that the common sense of national identity is very important, as it is a force that pushes towards unity, but at the same time it may push towards division, which calls for giving it a lot of attention by placing the identity of society within its political structure, and defining it with institutional political expressions. Furthermore, the prevailing vision of national identity should allow for the existence of multiple identities in multicultural societies; in addition to the necessity of defining the national identity of society in a way that includes all its citizens, and makes them able to define themselves through it, the identity represents who belongs to society and who is qualified to possess rights; Finally, the concept of national identity should be based on the inclusion of all citizens and their acceptance as equal members in terms of values and legitimacy in society.

With regard to the Jordanian national identity, Al-Ayasrah (2019) emphasizes that it is participatory among all Jordanian citizens without discrimination, and it is a constructive identity based on previous achievements to which individuals and state institutions deliberately contributed. The Jordanian national identity is also seen as an identity that focuses on the supreme national interest of the state away from narrow interests, and that it is integrative based on respect for the diversity of trends, based on investment in the citizen as a national wealth.

Syrian asylum and Syrian refugees as a civilian presence within the Jordanian state represent a factor of instability in Jordan, both in the social and the economic aspect. The successive waves of refugees to which Jordan has been subjected

have imposed a number of political, economic, social and cultural pressures, especially in light of the high number of Syrian refugees in Jordan, and the failure of the countries of the world and the United Nations to deal with the roots of this crisis and remedy it. This led to the exacerbation of the social situation in Jordan, and resulted in a set of negative effects on Jordan, which must be addressed and appropriate solutions developed so as not to negatively affect members of Jordanian society of all categories. Considering that university students are one of the most important groups in society, work should be done to track the impact of the Syrian refugee waves on them, direct their behavior, and develop their national identity (Al-Sarhan and Al-Qadi, 2017).

Many studies have dealt with Syrian asylum and national identity. For example, the study of Miqdadi, Al-Qaoud, & Tawalbeh (2018) sought to identify the perceptions of social studies teachers in Mafraq Schools in Jordan of the impact of Syrian asylum on the social and educational aspects, and its relationship to the variables of gender and place of residence. The study sample consisted of (116) male and female teachers of social studies. To achieve the aim of the study, the descriptive method was used, which is based on the questionnaire. The results showed that the social studies teachers' perceptions about the impact of Syrian asylum on the social and educational aspects were high. The results of the study also showed that there were statistically significant differences in the effect of Syrian asylum on the social and educational aspects due to the effect of gender, and in favor of females, while it was found that there were no statistically significant differences due to the effect of the place of residence.

Al-Saher and Al-Tarawneh (2019) conducted a study in Jordan aimed at researching the identity crisis and problems of integration among Syrian refugee women residing outside refugee camps in Jordan. The study used the quantitative method through a sample of (50) Syrian refugee women from whom information was collected through semi-structured interviews. The results showed that Syrian refugee women face a set of problems that negatively affect their national identity, which led to their living in social isolation. Most of the Syrian refugee women who live outside the camps suffer from difficulties that affected their social and cultural integration, and the decrease in formal social relations between refugee women and others in their surroundings in addition to the distinctive cultural differences between them and their peers from Jordan. The results indicated that most of the participants had difficulty developing a sense of belonging to the society of the country of asylum.

Obaid, Al-Musawi, and Al-Zoubi (2020) researched the impact of Syrian asylum on the population and national identity in Jordan, through a sample of (384) individuals who followed the pages of Jordanian cities on the social network Facebook, who were chosen randomly. To achieve the objectives of the study, the descriptive approach based on the questionnaire was used. The results of the study showed that there is a moderate effect of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity in terms of the components of the national identity the criteria of the national identity, and the entitlements of the national identity. The results of the study also showed that there were no statistically significant differences in the impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity according to the variables of gender, place of residence, nature of work, and age.

Abu Salah (2020) conducted a study in Jordan to find out the degree to which students at the University of Jordan represent concepts of national identity from their point of view. The study sample consisted of (400) male and female students from the University of Jordan, who were chosen randomly. To achieve the objectives of the study, the descriptive approach based on the questionnaire was used. The results showed that the degree of representation of the concepts of national identity by University of Jordan students from their point of view was high. The results of the study also showed that there were statistically significant differences in the degree of students' representation of the concepts of national identity at Jordan University, due to the gender variable, in favor of males. However, there were no statistically significant differences due to the variable of college and academic year.

The study of Alazzam and Aldmour (2021) in Jordan aimed to identify the impact of the Syrian youth's asylum in Jordan on the crystallization of their national identity. The study sample consisted of (215) young people who reside in Zaatari camp in the age group 18-30 years and who were chosen purposefully. To achieve the objectives of the study, the descriptive approach based on the questionnaire was used. The results showed that there is a high impact of national interests, social upbringing, and social relations, respectively, on the refine of the national identity of Syrian youth. The

results of the study also showed that there were statistically significant differences in the impact of the Syrian youth's asylum to Jordan on the refine of their national identity, due to the age variable, in favour of the age group 25-30 years, and due to the educational level variable, in favour of primary or less. It is attributed to the duration of residence inside the camp, in favor of 4-6 years, and is attributed to the variable of the nature of work inside the camp, in favor of those who work inside the camp, and is attributed to the variable of the family's monthly income, in favor of 150 JD or less, while there were no differences attributed to the variable of the number of family members.

As a result of reviewing previous studies, it is clear that its objectives are many. The study of Alazzam and Aldmour (2021) aimed to identify the impact of the Syrian youth's asylum in Jordan in shaping their national identity. Moreover, the study of Al-Saher and Al-Tarawneh (2019) aimed to investigate the identity crisis and problems of integration among Syrian refugee women residing outside the refugee camps in Jordan. The current study, it aims to show the impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity from the perspective of Yarmouk University students.

In terms of the study sample, for example, Obaid, Al-Musawi, and Al-Zoubi (2020) study used individuals who follow the pages of Jordanian cities on the social network Facebook. Moreover, the study of Miqdadi, Al-Qaoud, & Tawalbeh (2018) used a sample of teachers of social studies. However, the sample of the current study used university students. The current study is distinguished by being one of the few studies – to the best knowledge of the researchers - that dealt with the impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity. This will provide a lot of new important information and results that can be employed to strengthen the national identity of Jordanian students. Furthermore, it is also hoped that results will bridge the theoretical and methodological gap on this topic.

## **2. Problem of the study**

Since 2011, the civil war in Syria has forced a large number of Syrians to leave their country, as many of them crossed into Jordan, and sought to integrate into the Jordanian community. Syrian refugees deliberately participate in the Jordanian labor market in a number of fields of work, which had an impact on the population, as a result of the existence of some cultural differences and different lifestyle.

Many researchers believe that one of the aspects that Syrian asylum deliberately negatively affected is the national identity and led to its weakness for some people. Al-Hourani (2017) stated that the Syrian asylum has activated the Jordanian national identity and its priorities as a result of the asylum chaos that affected the Jordanians which in turn led to the weakening of the national identity. Moreover, Obaid, Al-Mousawi, and Al-Zoubi (2020) claimed that Syrian asylum has led to a demographic imbalance in the nature of Jordanian society. This, in turn, affected the Jordanian national identity, whether in terms of components, elements, or national entitlements.

The problem of the study also stems from the great focus, in many studies, on dealing with refugees without taking into account the citizens in the hosting countries, and the repercussions of this asylum on them and this is what Al-Hourani's study (2017) pointed out, when stating that the current organizations focus more on the refugees themselves than on the hosting society. Considering the university students as one of the most important segments of society that should be given a lot of attention, and as the future of the country that will be built, it is necessary to stand on the various factors that could negatively affect the stability of their national identity, especially after what the researcher noticed about the imbalance in the national identity among some students as a result of the Syrian asylum. This calls for conducting a study to investigate the impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity among university students. This is done by trying to answer the following questions:

- What is the degree of impact of Syrian asylum on Jordanian national identity from the point of view of Yarmouk University students?
- Are there any statistically significant differences for the effect of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity from the perspective of Yarmouk University students, according to the variables: gender, college, and place of residence?

## 2.1 Significance of the Study

This study gains its theoretical importance from the nature of the subject it deals with, which is to reveal the impact of Syrian asylum on national identity from the point of view of Yarmouk University students. Moreover, this study contributes in clarifying the impact of the variables: gender, college, and place of residence, on the national identity, of Yarmouk University students. It is hoped that this study will contribute to enriching the scientific research field on the topic of the current study. Also, the scientific importance is represented in the study standing on the impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity of university students. This provides decision-makers in the educational field in Jordan with information that may improve the learning process and provide proposals to develop the reality of the learning process in a way that guarantees its impact and effectiveness on learning outcomes in the home economics branch and achieving quality outputs. Furthermore, this study is significant in terms of developing a tool to measure the impact of Syrian asylum on the national identity of university students, according to scientific methodological foundations, which provides an opportunity to be used by other researchers.

## 3. Methodology

To achieve the aim of the study, the descriptive survey method was used with the aim of obtaining the highest levels of validity and reliability of the results of the study, with the possibility of reaching the largest possible number of respondents.

### 3.1 Population and Sample

The study population consisted of all Yarmouk University students during the first semester of the academic year 2022/2023. A random sample of (1500) male and female students from Yarmouk University was selected. The study sample was selected using a computer based on their university numbers. This is shown in table (1).

**Table (1): Frequencies and percentages according to study variables**

Variable	Category	Frequency	Ratio
Gender	Meale	654	43.6
	Female	846	56.4
College	Scientific	721	48
	Humanitarian	757	52
Place of residence	village	743	49.5
	city	757	50.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>1500</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.2 Instrument of the study (national identity scale)

To achieve the objective of the study, the national identity scale was designed by referring to a group of previous studies such as: (Al-Hourani, 2017; Obaid, 2020; Al-Azzam and Al-Damour, 2021). The scale, in its initial form, consists of (21) items distributed over three dimensions: components of national identity, elements of national identity, and entitlements of national identity. A five-point Likert scale was adopted according to the following: (very large and given a grade (5), large and given a grade (4), moderate and given a grade (3), little and given a grade (2), very little and given a grade (1)) To answer those paragraphs, as the number (5) represents a high degree, and the number (1) represents a low degree for the positive paragraphs. These scores are reversed in the case of negative items.

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1 The results related to the first question: What is the degree of impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity from the point of view of Yarmouk University students?

To answer this question, the means and standard deviations were calculated for the responses of Yarmouk University students on each dimension of the national identity scale and on the scale. This is shown in table (2).

**Table (2): The means and standard deviations of the responses of Yarmouk University students on each of the dimensions of the national identity scale and the scale as a whole arranged in descending order according to the mean**

Dimensions	level	Mean	Standard Deviation	degree of appreciation
Components of the Jordanian national identity	1	4.78	1.16	high
Elements of national identity	2	3.84	1.17	high
Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity	3	3.75	1.21	high
<b>Total</b>		<b>4.21</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>high</b>

Table (2) shows that the first dimension (Components of the Jordanian national identity) came in the first level with means (4.78) and standard deviation (1.16) and with a high degree of appreciation. Then came the second dimension (Elements of national identity) in the second level with means (3.84) and standard deviation (1.17) and with a high degree of appreciation. However, the third dimension (Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity) came in the last level with means (3.75) and standard deviation (1.21) and with a high degree of appreciation. The average response of Yarmouk University students on the scale as a whole was (4.12), with a standard deviation of (1.18), and with a high degree of appreciation.

In order to identify the impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity from the point of view of Yarmouk University students, within each domain of the national identity scale, the means and standard deviations were calculated for the sample responses on the national identity scale for each domain separately, as shown in the following presentation:

#### 4.1.1 The components of the Jordanian national identity

**Table (3): The means and standard deviations of the items in the domain of the components of the Jordanian national identity, arranged in descending order**

Item	level	Mean	Standard Deviation	degree of appreciation
Syrian asylum contributed to changing names and surnames (such as the names of restaurants, shops, ... etc.)	1	4.93	1.36	high
Syrian asylum contributed to changing the Jordanian dialect	2	4.88	1.31	high
Syrian asylum contributed to changing the popular Jordanian food	3	4.85	1.34	high
Syrian asylum contributed to changing Jordanian customs and traditions	4	4.79	1.23	high
Syrian asylum contributed to the demographic change in the population	5	4.75	1.29	high
Syrian asylum has contributed to changing the external appearance of people	6	4.67	1.31	high
Syrian asylum contributed to social changes among Jordanian minorities (such as Circassians, Chechens, Druze, etc.).	7	4.62	0.98	high
Total dimension		4.78	1.16	high

Table (3) shows that the Means ranged between (4.93-4.62), with standard deviations between (1.36-0.98) and with a high degree of appreciation. The item which states “Syrian asylum contributed to changing names and surnames (such as the names of restaurants, shops, ... etc.)” ranked first with a mean (4.93), a standard deviation (1.36) and a high degree of appreciation. Then came item which states “Syrian asylum contributed to changing the Jordanian dialect” in second place, with a mean of (4.88), a standard deviation of (1.31), and a high degree of appreciation. However, item which states “Syrian asylum contributed to social changes among Jordanian minorities (such as Circassians, Chechens, Druze, ... etc.)” came last with a mean (4.62), a standard deviation (0.98) and a high degree of appreciation.

#### 4.1.2 Elements of national identity

**Table (4): The means and standard deviations of the items in the domain of the elements of national identity as arranged in descending order**

Item	level	Mean	Standard Deviation	degree of appreciation
Syrian asylum contributed to the consolidation of the social unity of the people of Jordan	1	4.21	1.09	high
Syrian asylum contributed to an increase in the feeling of security	2	4.17	1.28	high
Syrian asylum contributed to the weakening of clan affiliation	3	4.02	1.37	high
Syrian asylum contributed to the increase in the Syrian movement of the people of Jordan	4	3.81	1.33	high
Syrian asylum contributed to weakening adherence to Jordanian laws	5	3.73	0.87	high
Syrian asylum contributed to the weakening the sense of national affiliation	6	3.56	1.02	moderate
Syrian asylum contributed to challenging Jordanian political thought (the government decision-maker)	7	3.42	1.26	moderate
Total dimension		3.84	1.17	high

Table (4) shows that the Means ranged between (4.21-3.42), with standard deviations between (1.37-0.87) and with a high degree of appreciation. The item which states "Syrian asylum contributed to the consolidation of the social unity of the people of Jordan" ranked first with a mean (4.21), a standard deviation (1.09) and a high degree of appreciation. Then came item which states "Syrian asylum contributed to an increase in the feeling of security" in second place, with a mean of (4.17), a standard deviation of (1.28), and a high degree of appreciation. However, item which states "Syrian asylum contributed to challenging Jordanian political thought (the government decision-maker)" came last with a mean (3.42), a standard deviation (1.26) and a moderate degree of appreciation.

#### 2.2.3 Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity

**Table (5): The means and standard deviations of the items in the domain of the Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity**

Item	level	Mean	Standard Deviation	degree of appreciation
Syrian asylum contributed to the competition of Syrian labor for the Jordanian labor force (such as craft, vocational, agricultural, ... etc.)	1	4.66	1.09	high
Syrian asylum contributed to showing Jordan's sacrifices for the sake of Arab issues	2	4.58	1.23	high
Syrian asylum contributed to realizing the dangers surrounding Jordan	3	4.46	1.36	high
Syrian asylum contributed to highlighting Jordan's position in the Arab world and internationally	4	3.59	1.32	moderate
Syrian asylum contributed to encouraging local investment by opening small and moderate businesses	5	3.38	1.25	moderate
Syrian asylum contributed to activating the work of civil society institutions	6	3.34	1.19	moderate
Syrian asylum contributed to the spread of the use of different means of transportation than before (such as motorcycles).	7	2.27	1.08	low
Total dimension		3.75	1.21	high

Table (5) shows that the Means ranged between (4.66-2.27), with standard deviations between (1.36-1.08) and with a high degree of appreciation. The item which states "Syrian asylum contributed to the competition of Syrian labor for the Jordanian labor force (such as craft, vocational, agricultural, ... etc.)" ranked first with a mean (4.66), a standard deviation (1.09) and a high degree of appreciation. Then came item which states "Syrian asylum contributed to showing Jordan's sacrifices for the sake of Arab issues" in second place, with a mean of (4.58), a standard deviation of (1.23), and a high degree of appreciation. However, item which states Syrian asylum contributed to the spread of the use of different means of transportation than before (such as motorcycles)" came last with a mean (2.27), a standard deviation (1.08) and a low degree of appreciation.

This is due to the fact that the category of university students is the one that is most integrated in understanding and feeling identity, as it is not young in age so that it does not understand or care about issues of identity, and it is not large either to be preoccupied with new interests, but rather it is a category that merges with the homeland and with its composition, institutions and knowledge structures. At this age, a person focuses his convictions, and is more able than others to express them as identity develops with the individual as his /her age progresses.

It is noted that the fundamental transformations that affected the construction of the identity and its essence made the Jordanian, like other Arab peoples, confined himself to the direction of belonging to the state, as it is the closest expression of his ambitions and orientations and the closest to achieving his interests. However, belonging to the Jordanian identity in its regional dimension is subject to the clan-tribal component, which is the most prominent component of this country. Jordan is based on clan formations that share power with the ruling regime, albeit in an undeclared manner (Al-Rusan and Al-Rusan, 2014). This is what strengthened the clan component, which is its image of the family dimension in the coding and formation of the identity of the Jordanian, as S/he belongs to a family and to a clan, then S/he is a Jordanian who belongs to this country, but not in his individual capacity, but rather through his clan component. It may express a state of recovery in the sense of identity, albeit within narrow frameworks. Despite the political divisions on various issues, the narrow Jordanian identity began to emerge with components of clear significance, which is what Rouhana (2012) referred to in the case of the Palestinian identity.

The result of the current study is in line with Miqdadi, Al-Qaoud, and Tawalbeh (2018), who indicated that the impact of Syrian asylum on the social and educational aspects was high. Moreover, another study that concurs with this study is Abu Salah's study (2020) which showed that the degree of representation of the students of the University of Jordan for the concepts of national identity from their point of view was high. However, the current study's findings diverge with those of Obaid, Al-Mousawi, and Al-Zoubi's (2020) study, which found a moderate impact of Syrian asylum on Jordanian national identity.

#### **4.2. The results related to the second question: Are there any statistically significant differences for the effect of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity from the perspective of Yarmouk University students, according to the variables: gender, college, and place of residence?**

To answer this question, the means, and standard deviations of the responses of the teachers of the learning resource rooms were calculated on each dimension of the scale and according to the variable (sex, college, and place of residence). Table (6) shows this.

**Table (6): Means and Standard Deviations of the Responses of Yarmouk University Students on each of the Dimensions of the National Identity scale according to the variables (sex, college, and place of residence)**

category/ level			Components of the Jordanian national identity	Elements of national Identity	Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity
Gender	Male	Means	4.80	3.81	3.76
		Standard Deviation	1.19	1.15	1.08
	Female	Means	4.75	3.87	3.74
		Standard Deviation	1.12	1.18	1.27
College	Scientific	Means	4.77	3.85	3.71

category/ level			Components of the Jordanian national identity	Elements of national Identity	Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity
	Humanitarian	Standard Deviation	1.16	1.19	1.17
		Means	4.79	3.82	3.78
		Standard Deviation	1.17	1.16	1.22
Place of Residence	City	Means	4.74	3.79	1.24
		Standard Deviation	1.13	1.4	3.72
	village	Means	4.81	3.88	3.72
		Standard Deviation	1.5	1.19	1.18

Table (6) shows that there are differences in the means of the responses of Yarmouk University students on each of the dimensions of the national identity scale according to the variables (sex, college, and place of residence). To find out the statistical significance of these differences, multiple analysis of variance (MANOVA) was used as shown in table (7).

**Table (7): Results of multiple variance analysis of average responses of Yarmouk University students on each of the dimensions of the National identity scale according to a variable (sex, college, and place of residence)**

Source of variance	Dimension	Square total	Degree of Freedom	Square mean	F value	Level of statistical significant
Gender Hotelling's Trace=0.009 statistical significant= 0.801	Components of Jordanian National Identity	71.798	1	71.798	.584	.446
	Elements of National Identity	18.711	1	18.711	.552	.459
	Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity	12.953	1	12.953	.144	.705
College Hotelling's Trace=0.180 statistical significant=.061	Components of Jordanian National Identity	1764.110	1	1764.110	14.352	.087
	Elements of National Identity	273.439	1	273.439	8.361	.502
	Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity	1093.765	1	1093.765	12.148	.392
Place of Residency Hotelling's Trace=0.057 statistical significant=.037	Components of Jordanian National Identity	436.380	1	436.380	3.550	.002
	Elements of National Identity	28.264	1	28.264	.834	.003
	Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity	323.370	1	323.370	.3.592	.011
Error	Components of Jordanian National Identity	13274,871	108	122,915		
	Elements of National Identity	3661,156	108	33,900		
	Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity	9723,824	108	90,035		

Source of variance	Dimension	Square total	Degree of Freedom	Square mean	F value	Level of statistical significant
Total	Components of Jordanian National Identity	15377,679	111			
	Elements of National Identity	4016,491	111			
	Entitlements for the Jordanian national identity	11025,679	111			

\* Statistically significant at the level of statistical significance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ )

Table (7) shows that there are no statistically significant differences at the level of statistical significance ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) in the averages of the mean responses of Yarmouk University students on all scale dimensions related to the national identity scale due to the gender variable, which means that the identity component is a cultural knowledge component. It is reflected in the perception of an entire generation, and therefore this component is not affected by gender. Therefore, what a young man feels, a girl feels with regard to the components of national identity and their implications. This is an important matter that indicates the nature of the real changes that affected the cultural structure of Jordanian society in its dealings with females, as there is no longer that sharpness or clear discrimination between males and females, especially among educated girls. The result of the current study agrees with the result of the study of Obaid, Al-Mousawi, and Al-Zoubi (2020), which showed that there is an impact of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity according to the gender variable. However, it differs from the result of the study of Miqdadi, Al-Qaoud, and Tawalbeh (2018), which showed that there are differences according to the gender variable, and the result of Abu Salah's study (2020), which showed that there are differences in the degree of students' representation of the concepts of national identity at the University of Jordan due to the gender variable.

Table (7) shows that there are no statistically significant differences at the level of statistical significance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) in the averages of the average responses of Yarmouk University students on all dimensions of the scale related to the national identity scale due to the faculty variable. It can be said that the understanding and feeling of identity and the sense of the composition of its components is not related to the nature of the scientific or academic subject that the student is studying because the identity was formed for him cumulatively before entering university life, although the researchers had convictions that students of humanities colleges are often more interested in the issue of affiliations and loyalties, but the results of the analysis on this variable did not coincide with the convictions of the researchers, which is natural and logical. This reflects the state of the mental component of Jordanian youth, which appears to be somewhat similar, as is the case of the Jordanian family, which is considered the institution that has the strongest impact on socialization on the basis of which the national identity is formed. The result of the current study agrees with the result of Abu Salah's study (2020), which showed that there were no differences in the degree of students' representation of the concepts of national identity at the University of Jordan due to the faculty variable Table (7) also shows that there are statistically significant differences at the level of statistical significance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) in the averages of Yarmouk University students' responses to all dimensions of the scale related to the national identity scale due to the place of residence variable. These differences were in favor of the villagers. This shows that the nature of the geographical area on the one hand and the lifestyle that Jordanian youth live in affects their perception and sense of their national identity. The people of the villages cling strongly to their identity compared to the residents of the city, because the association of the people of the villages with the component of regional identity that is related to their feeling as part of the formation of the character of this identity, as they are the ones who formed the most prominent components of the national identity in its tribal depth. This is also because the people of the villages have the values of the clan deeply rooted in their mentality, and then they feel them and understand their meaning more than others.

This applies to the residents of the Jordanian city, which by nature often belong to clan formations with rural origins. Whoever lives in the city adopts only the city's economic production pattern, but he has not abandoned his clan affiliations, in which the values and concepts of pride in national identity are deeply rooted, even if the belief is that the new generation has a greater willingness than the old generation towards the city in values and behavior. It also applies to the rural population who adhere more to the land that represented their existence and life, and then to their tribal and regional identity. Hence, they are more inclined than others towards national and religious identity, which is natural and logical. It can be said that the statistical differences did not result in large gaps between the sample members, despite the difference in their place of residence. However, the place of residence is an influential variable in understanding Jordanian youth and their sense of their national identity. The result of the current study differs with the results of the studies of Miqdadi, Al-Qaoud, and Tawalbeh (2018) and Obaid, Al-Mousawi and Al-Zoubi (2020), which showed that there was no effect of Syrian asylum on the Jordanian national identity according to the residence variable.

## 5. Recommendations

In light of the results, the study recommends the following:

- The need to prepare joint programs between the government sector and civil society institutions to create common denominators within the Jordanian collective sense to highlight a comprehensive identity that enhances belonging to society and identity at the same time.
- Establishing the principle of national identity among university students with all its components, elements, and entitlements.
- Conducting future studies on the impact of Syrian asylum on the national identity.
- Conduct similar studies in universities that largely include other nationalities.
- Adding extracurricular activities to enhance national identity in light of global openness and asylum.

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