

## Level of Social Stigma among Newly Divorced Women in the Light of Children and Work Variables

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** This study aimed to identify the level of social stigma among recently divorced women in the past five years, considering the variables of children and employment.

**Method:** To achieve the study's objectives, the psychometric properties' validity and reliability were verified by translating the Thornicroft, Brohan, Kassam, and Lewis (2008) scale. A sample of 145 recently divorced women in Karak Governorate was selected using the snowball sampling method. The study was conducted by sending a questionnaire link to the participants in 2022.

**Results:** The study results showed a moderate level of social stigma among recently divorced women in Karak Governorate. Additionally, it was found that divorced women with children suffer from a higher level of social stigma compared to those without children. The results also showed that employed divorced women experience a lower level of social stigma compared to those who are unemployed.

**Conclusion:** Based on the study results, it is recommended that society should pay more attention to recently divorced women to reduce the social stigma they face, especially those with children or those who are unemployed.

**Keywords:** Social Stigma; Recently Divorced Women; Employment; Children.

### مستوى الوصمة الاجتماعية لدى النساء المطلقات حديثاً في ضوء متغيرات الأطفال والعمل

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#### ملخص

الأهداف: هدفت هذه الدراسة التعرف إلى مستوى الوصمة الاجتماعية لدى المطلقات حديثاً في السنوات الخمس الأخيرة في ضوء متغيري الأطفال والعمل.

المنهجية: لتحقيق أهداف الدراسة، تم التحقق من صدق وثبات الخصائص السيكومترية من خلال ترجمة مقياس ثورنيكروفت، بروهان، قسام ولويس (2008). وبناء على ذلك، تم اختيار عينة مكونة من 145 امرأة مطلقة حديثاً في محافظة الكرك بطريقة كرة الثلج. وتم تطبيق الدراسة من خلال إرسال رابط استبيان للمشاركة في عام 2022.

النتائج: أظهرت نتائج الدراسة وجود مستوى متوسط من الوصمة الاجتماعية لدى النساء المطلقات حديثاً في محافظة الكرك. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تبين أن النساء المطلقات اللاتي لديهن أطفال يعانين من مستوى أعلى من الوصمة الاجتماعية مقارنة بالنساء اللاتي ليس لديهن أطفال. وأظهرت النتائج أيضاً أن النساء المطلقات العاملات لديهن مستوى أقل من الوصمة الاجتماعية مقارنة بأولئك اللاتي لا يعملن.

الخلاصة: بناء على نتائج الدراسة، تمت التوصية بأنه ينبغي على المجتمع ضرورة الاهتمام بالنساء المطلقات للحد من الوصمة الاجتماعية التي يعانين منها، خاصة أولئك اللاتي لديهن أطفال أو لا يعملن. الكلمات الدالة: الوصمة الاجتماعية، النساء المطلقات حديثاً، العمل، الأطفال

## 1. Introduction

Family life is a starting point for personal and social stability. Some individuals are exposed to conditions that lead them to separation, divorce, and instability. This situation may accompany many psychological phenomena associated with divorce and may include a sense of loss. Furthermore, divorced persons suffer from mockery and criticism by society, which might lead to a sense of social stigma (henceforth SS) that may be accompanied by distress and discomfort. The current study tries to search for this phenomenon specifically.

The divorce phenomenon is related to the sociocultural variable that occurs in a particular society at a certain time, and thus a change in attitudes and behaviour among members of society, its groups and social classes (Al-Hazani, 2012). Divorce comes in several types, such as retrograde divorce. Retrograde divorce is the divorce when the husband has the right to return his divorced wife to his life without a new contract as long as she is in the waiting period, whether with her consent or not. An irrevocable divorce (minor degree) is a divorce in which the husband does not have the right to return his wife except with a new contract. Irrevocable divorce (major degree) is when the man divorces his wife (three simultaneous pronouncements of divorce). It is not permissible for him to return her until her waiting period ends and she marries another man who is not temporary or tied to any condition. This husband(second) divorces her voluntarily, and her waiting period ends as soon as the divorce occurs. Then the first divorcee proposes to marry her if she refuses and if she pleases (Al-Khalidi & Al-Alami, 2009).

The greatest responsibility for raising children after divorce falls on the mother in most circumstances, and if the mother suffers from pressures and loss of the ability to care for her children, lacks interest in them, and has feelings of despair about life. All these issues will be reflected in her children. In some cases, families that are cared for by a divorced mother suffer from several problems, such as the deviation of some of their members and the increase in tension, which may lead to violence, which is caused by the absence of positive parenting models. The children within an integrated family need care, education and attention that they lack when they live in a divorced mother family who can't meet those needs alone (Taylor et al., 2010).

Divorce affects the wife (divorced), especially at the beginning of the divorce period. The most prominent of these effects are psychological effects such as anxiety, lack of confidence in others, feeling remorse and self-blame, feeling lonely, feeling deprived of children, depression, loss of the desire to remarry, and loss of confidence in others, association with the past and with happy or painful memories. At the same time, many social effects appear, such as changing society's perception towards her, becoming captive to social constraints, embarrassment from society and people's words, gazes and interventions, and increased sensitivity to parental interference and criticism (Al-Maliki, 2001).

Many theories explain the increase in divorce rates in society. The cultural and social considerations that attributed the high rates of divorce in the modern era are social, cultural and economic factors, including the complexity of industrial life and the involvement of women in work, which made them dare to destroy marital life as the poor marital choice. Meanwhile, psychological interpretations such as Learning Theory considered that divorce occurred because each of the spouses did not get the reward from the other, and they felt deprived of satisfying their needs in marriage or exposed to punishment and felt tension and anxiety in their interaction with each other. Thus, the person gives up his relationship that prevents him from satisfying his needs, so he is attracted to the person he finds such satisfaction in interacting with (Abu Asaad & Khatatnah, 2011).

As for the definition of divorce, it is defined as: The dissolution of the marriage covenant practised by the husband and wife according to its conditions, under the supervision of the judiciary (Eid, 2012).

Rot-termann (2008) asserted that a psychological crisis arises for the divorced woman because of the strength of the trauma caused by divorce on the one hand, the family and material pressures, the trial fees of the courts, and the burdens of raising children on the other hand. In addition to the requirement that divorce is imposed on divorced women, especially those who have children, the material situation controls the expenses imposed by the different needs of the children.

Divorced women, especially those with children, suffer from the social difficulties represented by the decline of their social support and the inability to support themselves and their children. In addition to the impact of divorce on her psyche and the

view of her family and friends, this negatively affects her life, the lives of her builders, and their upbringing (Bekele, 2006).

The subject of women had also become one of the topics globally and strongly on all levels and in all areas, especially when some studies indicated that there is a relationship between female-headed households and the spread of poverty, as these families suffer from a decline in income and poverty, according to the study of (Judith & Henry, 2002).

The use of term Social Stigma refers to some of the physical characteristics that indicate the low moral status of those whom it characterize. The theory of SS is one of the relatively recent theories which tries to explain deviation, as it began in the 1950s, by the American researcher Adwin Limmer. Then another scientist came and developed it, "Howard Baker", and the origin of the theory is psychological, not social. It was launched from psychology at the beginning of 1926-1928 by one of the scientists, Tanin, but those who excelled in it were the socialists. The psychologists talk about Stigma, a Greek word that means a black dot in a white paper, and its scientific linguistic meaning is a stigma (Mohammed, 2014). SS, in general, is defined as the release or affixing unwanted labels to an individual by others, depriving them of social acceptance or endorsement by society because s/he is a different person from the rest of society (Ghaith, 1995).

As stated in the Psychological Dictionary issued by American Psychological Association, the negative social attitude that was attached to an individual's characteristics as a result of considerations of mental, physical, and social impairment or stigma implies social unacceptability and can lead to unfair discrimination against and isolating of the stigmatized person (VandenBoss, 2007), while the American Dictionary (The American Heritage, 2000) defines stigma as a symbol or relationship of shame or dishonourable action. The dictionary gives a synonym for the word "Stain " in the sense of a stain or shame. A medical definition considers stigma as an indication or sign of an abnormal disease or behaviour. Historically, the Greeks used the word Stigma as a brand or Tattoo, any stain or tattoo placed in the form of relationships or letters on the body as a mark distinguishing a person from others as a criminal or slave that makes everyone who sees them treat them badly and even despise and despise them.

SS can be considered as the relationship between a class and a stereotyped image with several components. This means we use the term stigma when the elements of stigma, stereotyping, isolation, and loss of status are combined (Bruce, 2020).

Tahirah and Tamara (2011) considered SS a psychological attitude that exposes a person, depriving him of social acceptance, which affects psychological compatibility.

Stigma is a trait of shame, a negative feature, or defamation of a person. It can manifest itself in many ways, from ignoring the needs of a person or group to discrimination and psychological or physical harm to a negative opinion due to a disgraceful act, social rejection, and a shameful attitude, revealing everything unusual and morally bad, for people who practice abnormal behaviour, to identify them as deviant people. They will be disgraced (Marshal, 1998).

Stigmatization is a social process that is not due to the act of deviance itself, but rather what it does is the social reaction that follows the deviant act. It means that the stigma is linked to the deviant reaction, not the act, as the stigma is between two parties. The first: is the deviant act itself, and the second party: is the social reaction to that act. The SS is a gradual process; that is, it does not happen at once; because the stigma does not come directly from the person, but rather it comes from the act and then moves to the doer of the actors who recognizes the nature of the stigma. Whether this perception makes the individual change their self-image or not, on this basis, the stigmatization process is gradual. It may lead to the stigmatized individual continuing or discontinuing the deviant behaviour (Lopes, 2006).

The feeling of stigma was not only experienced by the stigmatized group, but extends to those around the individual, for example, family members, caregivers of the stigmatized individual, friends, relatives, and treatment and counselling services providers for that individual (Robinson., et al ., 2016)

SS causes much damage to the individual and society, and this requires the development of a set of preventive measures, as well as seeking to provide a lot of treatments and mechanisms that confront this stigma and address it; to prevent the individual and society from falling into it, and consedring the seriousness of this stigma on the stigmatized person, in addition to those who are exposed to SS (Ghaith, 2013).

SS also has many disadvantages that can be referred back to the individual from his loyalty to the stigmatized, including but not limited to forming a strong personality capable of withstanding difficulties and decisions making in what is called

the process of personal growth or maturity. Acquiring benign qualities such as patience and tolerance through daily contact with the stigmatized person and strengthening family relationships. This can take place through the cooperation of all family members to meet the needs of that individual so that each individual discovers the latent potential which he possesses that only appears through experience, identifying families that have similar problems, leading to the formation of many social relationships and expanding the circle of social support (Norizan & Shamsuddin, 2010).

There are three main components of SS. The first component is cognition, defined as stereotypes of stigma, or stereotypical beliefs, which are widely known among members of the same culture and circulated among them. Then these stereotypes become the basis on which any member of the categorical stereotypes is excluded and avoided. The second component is emotion, a concept based on rigid and erroneous discrimination. The third component is behaviourism, which is recognizing things, which generally refers to the distinction between things and people. It involves everything considered odd, lacking and defective in society's opinion (Werner et al., 2015).

In this context, Fung et al. (2007) stated that self-stigma consists of three levels. These levels are the acceptance by the individual of stereotypes common to members of society, conformity of these ideas to self and low self-esteem.

The current study aims to identify the level of SS among newly divorced women (henceforth NDW) in the governorate of Karak, to investigate the existence of differences in SS among NDW according to the dimension of children, and to investigate the existence of differences in SS among NDW according to the dimension of work.

The current study's importance stems from the category it targets: NDW, which is one of the most important stages in the life of a divorced woman. This research may contribute to enriching the theoretical literature on the subject of the SS of divorced women. It may also contribute to attracting the interest of researchers and scholars in this subject and expanding studying this genre by linking it with other variables among students in different developmental stages other than those that will be addressed in this research. In the same context, the importance of this research stems from the fact that it will help specialists and workers in the psychological and educational fields to develop methods and guidance programs to control the effects, symptoms and results of SS in the educational community, which reflects positively on the society as a whole. The importance of research in this aspect stems from the fact that it will help those interested and researchers to develop foundations and instructions that will form a personality for divorced women.

The experience of divorce is one of the most painful experiences in human life, where the personality of the individual which is initially more frustrated is formed and crystallized. This personality deals with the challenges, difficulties and many variables, which drive the divorced women to deal with many pressures, that may make her live in a state of SS that comes to its zenith because of the increase in the view of some members of society that she could not succeed in her marriage and this issue may affect other aspects of her life. The SS that divorced women suffer from may vary depending on different factors. So, the presence of children in the divorced woman's life considered a factor in helping her overcome the crisis and then trauma or is it considered a hindrance to her? Furthermore, is her work also an important factor in her life and helps her overcome the crisis or is it a hindrance to her life and worsens her condition?

The province of Karak is the region in the south of Jordan, characterized as a rapidly developing areas in recent years. The children in the province of Karak are famous for their love of learning and searching for cognitive development. The family is still the main focus that contributes to the stability of its members, where every young man and girl aspires to form a stable and sustainable family and maintain it and stay away from the factors and conditions that cause divorce. Unfortunately, as in other provinces, there are some cases where marital life ends with divorce. Therefore, some women may stop thinking about the remarry in this case. According to the Department of the Chief Justice statistics for the year (2021), 568 femals are divorced in the governorate of Karak from 2017 to 2021. Therefore, through the researcher's observation, the current study attempts to answer the following question: What is the level of SS among divorced women in the governorate of Karak and does this SS differ among this group in light of the variables of children and work?

These questions can be divided into the following:

- 1- What is the level of SS among divorced women in the Karak governorate?
- 2- Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the SS of divorced women

according to the dimension of children (have children, have no children)?

3- Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the SS of divorced women according to work (working, not working)?

## **2. Methodology**

The current study employed a descriptive-analytical methodology to answer the study questions.

### **2.1. Study Population:**

The study community consisted of all NDW in the province of Karak in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The number of divorced women was (568) during the past five years (2017-2021).

### **2.2. Study Sample**

The available sample method was chosen to answer the study questions through the snowball method, a link was distributed to the divorced women to answer the statements of the scale, and the link was open to responding for two months. 145 divorced women responded to the questionnaire in which they formed the study sample and represented (25.5%) of the study population.

### **2.3. Study Tools**

#### **First: SS Scale**

The researcher form (Thotnicroft, 2008) to identify the occurrence of SS translated this measure among newly divorced. The scale in the initial form consists of (22) statements and one overall degree.

#### **Confirm the psychometric properties of the scale by**

##### **1. The validity of the SS scale**

**A- Translation validity:** The scale was presented in its initial form to (6) faculty members in its two versions: Arabic and English, to verify the appropriateness of drafting statements and their suitability for the study environment. Four faculty members agreed to amend the statement and made amendments to (3) statements.

**B- Face Validity:** To ensure the validity of the measure of SS in its initial form, it was presented to (8) arbitrators from faculty members and specialists in psychological counselling and psychology in Jordanian Universities. They were consulted to express their opinion on the validity and comprehensiveness of the statements in measuring SS. They also verified the extent of the statements' clarity, accuracy and language. The arbitrators' amendments of the referees were studied, and their proposals and the agreement criterion were adopted by (5) of the Committee of the referees to approve the amendment. The amendments of the referee were represented in the reformulation of (3) statements.

**C- Validity of the internal construction of the SS skills scale:** After completing the consultation procedures, the SS scale was applied to 30 divorced women. Then a correlation coefficient (Pearson) was found between each statement with the SS contained in it; to show the extent to which the statements agree in measuring the SS.

Table (1) shows the values of the correlation coefficients for statements.

**Table (1): Correlation coefficients between each stigma scale statement and the tool.**

Statement No.	Correlation coefficient	Statement No.	Correlation coefficient	Statement No.	Correlation coefficient	Statement No.	Correlation coefficient
1	0.58	7	0.58	13	0.38	19	0.48
2	0.70**	8	0.41	14	0.47	20	0.47
3	0.47	9	0.38	15	0.64**	21	0.61**
4	0.41	10	0.47	16	0.66**	22	0.66**
5	0.64**	11	0.58	17	0.60		
6	0.60	12	0.55**	18	0.50		

\* function at significance level ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) \* \* function at significance level ( $\alpha=0.01$ ).

It is clear from Table (1) that the expressions are significant at the two levels of significance: ( $\alpha = 0.01$ ) and ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ), and the significant values ranged between (0.38 -0.70), which is suitable for the current study.

## 2.Stability of SS Scale:

The stability of the tool was verified by applying it to a pilot sample consisting of (30) divorced women from within the study community and outside its sample. The validity factor was calculated using the retest method with an interval of three weeks. The value of the stability coefficient of the retest method was (0.89\* \*) and the stability of the tool was verified according to the (Alpha Cronbach) equation, and the value of the stability coefficient in the internal consistency method was (0.90). The scale was also verified using a half-split, which showed a correlation coefficient of (0.81\* \*), and this is an appropriate value in educational studies.

## Criteria for judging the degree of SS:

### Tool Correction and Interpretation:

The tool consists of (22) statements. The answer to each statement of the tool is graded on the five-Likert scale: (Strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree), according to the application of the content of the statement to the NDW, and the respondent of this tool is the women herself. The answer scale can be converted to degrees so that the answer takes these degrees (strongly agree (five scores), agree (four scores), neutral (three scores), I disagree (two scores), and I strongly disagree (one score), and the tool has a total mark. All the statements on the scale indicate the existence of SS and are in one direction.

Thus, the score of a newly divorced woman ranged between (22-110). To analyze the responses obtained by the respondents, the Mean was calculated, so the scores between (1-2.33) for the statement indicate a low level of e SS, and the score between (2.34-3.67) for the statement indicate a medium level of SS, and the scores between (3.68-5) for the statement indicate of a high level of SS.

## 3. Study results and discussion:

The results of the study are presented and discussed below:

### Presenting the results related to the first question: What is the SS level among divorced women in the Karak governorate?

To answer this question, means and standard deviations of the SS scale were calculated, and table (2) shows the results.

**Table (2): means and standard deviations of the stigma scale statements among divorced girls.**

No	Statement	mean	standard deviation	Level	Rank
21	Have you ever been ignored or disliked by people who provide you with psychosocial support services?	4.28	1.22	High	1
14	Have you ever been treated unfairly by the police?	4.23	1.23	High	2
13	Have you ever been treated unfairly when attending a social event?	4.11	1.27	High	3
6	Were you treated unfairly when you wanted to marry or by your husband?	4.09	1.29	High	4
20	Have you been treated unfairly when you want to define the parental role for your children?	3.96	1.58	High	5
8	Were you treated unfairly when you wanted to look for work?	3.93	1.16	High	6
1	were you treated fairly when working to make or keep friends?	3.91	1.39	High	7
7	Have you been treated unfairly by members of your family?	3.88	1.33	High	8
9	Were you treated unfairly when you wanted to keep the work or profession?	3.77	1.26	High	9
4	Have you been treated unfairly in your place of residence?	3.76	1.23	High	10

No	Statement	mean	standard deviation	Level	Rank
3	Were you treated unfairly when you wanted an emotional relationship with a man?	3.68	1.41	High	11
10	Were you treated unfairly when you were using public transport?	3.67	1.25	Medium	12
15	Were you treated unfairly when you needed health assistance?	3.62	1.27	mean	13
16	Were you treated inappropriately when you wanted psychological services?	3.58	1.45	mean	14
19	Were you treated unfairly when you wanted to have a family( remarry) or have children?	3.57	1.41	mean	15
17	Were you treated unfairly in your life when you were looking for privacy?	3.41	1.59	Medium	16
5	Have you been treated unfairly in your life when wanting to get an education?	3.32	1.23	mean	17
18	Were you treated unfairly in your life when you were looking for safety and personal security?	3.22	1.48	Medium	18
11	Have you been treated unfairly when you want to receive social care by charities?	2.72	1.30	Medium	19
12	Have you been treated unfairly in your life when wanting to practice religion?	2.58	1.31	mean	20
22	Have you been treated unfairly in other areas of life?	2.54	1.24	mean	21
2	Have you ever been treated unfairly by people in your area?	2.49	1.41	Medium	22
	total	3.39	0.61	Medium	

The results of the current question show that divorced women had an average level of SS with a mean of (3.39) and a standard deviation of (0.61), and the statements ranged between the average and high levels.

**Presenting the results related to the second question: Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the SS of divorced women according to the dimension of children (have children, have no children)?**

To examine the differences between the performance averages on the statistical significance of social stigma, and because of the difference in the presence of children (having children, not having children), a test (T) was used for independent samples, and Table (3) shows that:

**Table (3): Results of the T-test of the averages of SS according to the presence of children (having children, not having children) in NDW**

scale	Children	Number	Mean	standard deviation	degree of Freedom	T-test	Sig
Social stigma	No children.	81	3.11	0.54	143	6-11	0.00
	WITH CHILDREN	64	3.72	0.66			

Table (3) shows differences between NDW according to the differences in the dimension of children, with a value of (6.11) in social stigma.

**Presenting the results related to the third question: Are there statistically significant differences at the significance level ( $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ) in the SS of divorced women according to work (working, not working)?**

To examine the differences between the performance averages on the statistical significance of the SS according to the dimension of work (working, not working), a T-test was used for independent samples, and Table (4) shows that:

**Table (4): Results of the T-test for SS means due to the dimension of Work (Working, Not Working) in NDW**

scale	Work	Number	the Mean	standard deviation	degree of Freedom	T-value	Sig
Social stigma	work	51	3.12	0.73	143	-3.44	0.00
	Not working	94	3.51	0.59			

Table (3) shows differences between NDW due to the work of divorced women, with a value of (3.44) in social stigma.

#### 4. Discussion of the results

The results of the current question show that divorced women had a medium level of social stigma, and the statements ranged between medium and high levels. The highest statements of the SS were (Have you ever been ignored or disliked by people who provide you with psychosocial support services?), (Have you ever been treated unfairly by the police?), and (Have you ever been treated unfairly when attending a social event?). At the same time, the lowest statements in the SS of women were (Have you been treated unfairly in your life when wanting to practice religion?" Have you been treated unfairly in other areas of life?), and ( Have you ever been treated unfairly by people in your area?). It was found that the divorced women who have the highest degree of obtaining psychosocial support services, were treated unfairly, and were treated unfairly in social events; because some members of the community still mock them (rejected or ridiculed), and they are still facing problems as a result of some of the judgments issued by the community towards them, especially in Karak governorate.

The result of the study shows that divorced women suffer from some insults related to what happened to them. These mockeries cause them to have such feelings related to social stigma. It seems that some people still remember that a divorced woman suffers from problems in the society's view. Due to the social stigma, the divorced woman resorts to escape from her family, work and parents. She may have had difficulty raising her children, or perhaps it led her to enter into some legal cases upon divorce and caused her to have an inappropriate social view. SS may lead the women to have distress and discomfort when dealing with others and make their view of others negatively rather than positively.

The researcher also attributed the results to the fact that a divorced woman lives in a society that needs long periods to accept that she is divorced and perhaps blame her for the divorce more than he blames her husband. The experience of SS is still inherent to her, in addition to the fact that a divorced woman does some compensatory work in life after divorce, especially in the case of having children and obtaining social support from others, and perhaps because divorced women are still at a stage that needs support from others. Therefore, they feel that SS from others around them. The result of the current question is consistent with the learning theory, which indicates that the divorce occurred because each spouse did not receive a reward from the other, and that affected their personal and social lives.

The study of Abdelhafiz and Alorabi (2020) agrees with the result of the current study, which indicated that social trauma remains in the individual after the disease, and agrees with the result of the study of (Al-Maaitah & Al-Sarayreh, 2021), which indicated a medium level of social factors in women exposed to trauma. It also agrees with the results of the studies of (Al-Maliki, 2001; Rot-termann, 2008; Taylor et al., 2010). It is also consistent with the study of (Ghani & Aziz, 2013), who pointed the difficulties experienced by the divorced in life due to the divorce event and the resulting trauma and various pressures she bears such as family and material pressures.

It seems from the results of the current study that the newly divorced woman, who does not have children, has a sense of SS less than the divorced women who have children, where the divorced woman who does not have children feels the possibility of remarrying, on the one hand, and the lack of responsibility in raising children on the other hand. Thus, she can remarry without pressure from her ex-husband and succeed in her marriage,

She feels that there is no constant unity with her husband from whom she was divorced—having children forms such a financial and educational burden on the divorced women. At the same time, the presence of children may reduce the opportunity for the divorced woman to work, complete her school life, or travel to search for work abroad. In addition, the divorced woman who has children may suffer from the society's consideration of her children. Furthermore, it prevents her from starting work or study without restrictions. This may be due to her fear because she has children who need constant care, which may worsen the situation when the divorced woman has female children. This forms increasing pressure from



society on her, and she is prevented from many life activities because of society's fear on her and her daughters. This is consistent with the results of a study of (Taylor et al., 2010; Bekele, 2006) about the pressures on a woman when she is a mother, especially those related to social stigma.

The current study shows that the view of society seems more severe on NDW who do not work, and thus increases the SS on them. In contrast, concerning women who work, the society treats them less sharply and accepts many things from these women, including going to work and going outside their homes and practicing some social activities that bring them closer to society. Conversely, women's participation in practicing some activities without such justification for work may face many criticisms and constantly need justification for going out of the house, which subjects her to higher and larger SS from society. As a result of work, on the other hand, the divorced woman may have a suitable financial situation that helps her win some people around her and reduce the social stigma. However, perhaps the divorce of some non-working women makes them unable to find a suitable source of income and they may not be able to meet their personal needs, and consequently this may lead to a negative view of the divorced woman. Also, she may not be able to compensate for the lack of income after being completely dependent on the partner who was spending on her. The divorced woman who doesn't work is driven to increased pressure from the society and thus increased social stigma.

## **5. Recommendation:**

**In light of the results of this study, the following recommendations can be proposed:**

- Paying more attention to NDW to help them eliminate the SS they suffer from.
- Conducting mentoring programs for NDW to reduce social stigma.
- Involving NDW in mentoring programs, especially women with children, because the SS is more marked than divorced women without children.
- Helping NDW to reduce SS when they do not have a work by encouraging them to seek work to compensate for the void left by their husbands, whether it is a time void or a financial void.
- Conducting more educational studies that address the SS of NDW as a problem that will increase if not reviewed.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS:**

The current study shows that the level of SS among NDW was moderate. NDW need help to reduce social stigma, the divorced women with children suffer more stigma because of their responsibilities. Divorced women who have worked have a low SS due to the achievement they accomplish in their lives because of work. It is advised that women must think carefully before divorce if they have children, and it is also advised that women must find work.

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