

Gender issues

An analytical study

Based on the Population and Housing Census,
2015



Jordan, 2016

Department of
Statistics general
population and
housing census
2015

Executive Summary

This study aims to present some gender issues in Jordan by highlighting indicators that monitor the status of women in Jordan compared to men based on data provided by the general population and housing census 2015, In order to draw the attention of policy makers and decision makers to the importance of examining these issues to reduce the gap between males and females wherever they exist. The study included three main issues: Work and challenges that face women, women's access to economic resources and early marriage. The main results are as follows:

- The percentage of economically active females rises between the 1994 and 2015 censuses from 14.8% to 20.7%, while the percentage of economically active males decreased from 75.7% in 1994 to 66.7% in 2015.
- The percentage of female-headed households has increased. One out of every ten households was headed by a female in 1994, while in 2015 one out of every eight households was headed by a woman.
- Results showed that 38% of the economically active Jordanian females aged 25-29.
- The higher the level of education for females the higher the rate of their economic participation. More than half of the Jordanian female workers in 2015 are university graduates, compared with 23% males.
- 11% of Jordanian females work permanently, compared to 45% males, a 34% gap for males.
- 21% of female workers head their households are made up of one individual.
- The larger the household, the smaller the percentage of female workers heading their households
- The percentage of female workers head households with children under 6 years of age did not reached 17%,while 76.4% of female-headed households did not seek work (i.e. economically inactive) and have children under 6 years of age.
- The ownership of houses by households living in Jordan headed by a woman has decreased from 75% in 2004 to 62.9% in 2015, while the ownership rate of households headed by a man decreased from 65.5% to 60.2% between the two years mentioned.
- Three out of five female-headed households in 2015 in Jordan live in family-owned houses.
- More than half of the non-Jordanian female-headed households live in rented houses.
- Male-headed households tend to have Air Conditioning more than female-headed households, with rates (22.7% and 20.2%) respectively.
- The female-headed households in Jordan are more than the Male-headed households to have a solar heater with a rate of 12.8% and 10.9% each and with a gender gap of 1.9% for the female-headed households.
- Two thirds of Jordanian male-headed households have a smart phone, while more than half of Jordanian female-headed households own this device.
- One out of five female-headed households in Jordan has an access to the internet.
- 6.7% of the population aged 13 years and over in Jordan first married before reaching 18 years of age; this rate is distributed between males and females unevenly, with the rate of 13.2% for females compared to 1% among males.
- One third of the Jordanian and non-Jordanian females who are currently 60 years and older had married early, whereas this percentage decreased among females aged under 18 to reach 2.1% for Jordanian females and 8.2% for non-Jordanian females.
- 38% of females who are married before they reach 18 years of age and are currently 18 years, enrolled in primary education, while 23% of females who do not know to read and write are married before reaching this age.

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Chapter 1: Methodology of the study

Introduction

Because of the role played by women in society, the attention to gender equality issues and the empowerment of women has increased both at the local and international levels. Accordingly, Governments committed themselves to the Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women by integrating the concept of gender into all development policy and program processes as well as the implementation and evaluation of such programs and policies. In order to

support this effort and to determine progress, the data requested should be provided disaggregated by Gender-sensitive indicators in particular.

In order to enhance the role of women in comprehensive development, and based on the importance of standing alongside men in all spheres of life as half of society, efforts had to be made to narrow the gap and achieve gender equality, where the status of women in society had become used as a measure of the degree of economic and social progress in societies.

The general population and housing census is one of the largest and most important statistical processes that allow the collection of diverse data on all individuals in society, The census made it the main source of data collection on many topics that could be used to measure the differences between women and men, between girls and boys, and to focus on certain population groups, such as the elderly, the disabled and other groups.

Accordingly, DoS provided data and indicators to measure the status of women in Jordanian society and the extent of the gap between them and men in all economic and social fields based on the general population and housing census data 2015.

The importance of study

The advancement and empowerment of women is a condition of social justice that must be implemented with a view to building a productive, just and advanced society and achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security. The Beijing Platform for Action identified 12 critical areas that call for strategic action for the empowerment of women. All these areas require statistical data that serve as a basis for formulating policies for the advancement of women and for monitoring and evaluating their performance.

The goal of the study

The present study aims to highlight indicators that monitor the status of women in Jordan compared to men based on data provided by the 2015 general population and housing census, which can be used to calculate the gap indicator of demographic, social and economic characteristics, taking into account geographical distribution and nationalities In order to draw the attention of policy makers and decision makers to the importance of reducing the gender gap between males and females wherever they exist, with a view to advancing progress and growth without any obstacles.

Methodology of the study

The Gender Statistical Analysis goes beyond traditional statistical analysis, It requires an additional step which is the statistical analysis with a gender perspective, with a view to revealing the disparity between women and men given multiple and overlapping variables, and understanding the factors that have a different impact on their respective activities and identify the potential effects of relevant policies and programs.

Definitions

Gender: The socially defined roles of males and females and these roles acquired in education change over time and vary widely within one culture and differ from one culture to another. It should be

noted that gender is not a substitute for the term "sex", which in turn refers to the biological differences between males and females. In other words, the term gender can be used in statistical studies, and the term gender is used to analyze the roles, responsibilities and needs of both males and females everywhere and in any social context.

Gender statistics: Statistics that reflect gender issues and differences in society - statistics that are designed and defined from the outset to gather information on issues where gender differences can exist. It is used as tools to demonstrate the status of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and has held Governments accountable for their adherence to international commitments based on the integration of a gender perspective into all development policies and the enhancement of women's empowerment.

Gender gap = Male pointer value (for any characteristic) - Female pointer value (for the same characteristic)

If the calculation result is (zero), there is no gender gap between males and females in this characteristic, but if the result (positive) the gender gap is for males, and if the result (negative) the gender gap is for females.

Structure of the study

The study contains two main chapters: The first presents the methodology followed, and the second deals with gender issues, with the focus on three main issues: The first is the work of women and the challenges of women, which are an important factor in the direction of achieving greater equality in the distribution of income, decisions and roles within the household and society at large. The second issue is women's access to economic resources and the third is early marriage (marriage of minors).

Chapter II: Gender issues

Gender issues are among the pressing issues in the Arab region and are essential for achieving sustainable development. Despite the significant progress made by Jordanian women, along with men, many of the major issues and challenges faced by Jordanian women, particularly in the light of conflict, economic difficulties and political instability, remain. To date, women suffer from widespread discrimination on the basis of gender, as they access resources, opportunities and decision-making centers, so that attention and focus have been clearly placed on the most prominent issues in the area of gender equality in Jordan and giving priority to action and the challenges women face, access to economic resources and the phenomenon of early marriage.

Issue 1: Women's work and challenges

Many recent studies carried out at the international level have focused on the outstanding position of women's economic contribution to sustainable development. They contribute to reducing poverty and malnutrition, increasing the participation of women in decision-making and facilitating their access in the area where women's movement is constrained by cultural controls over health and education services. Women's economic participation also has special implications indirectly related to the Millennium Development Goals: They help to reduce levels of reproduction, violence against them, child labor and enhance their bargaining power within the family and society.

Jordanian women have achieved many achievements in various social, health, economic and political fields, efforts and concerns have intensified in addressing and understanding gender issues through

the development and provision of data concerning women compared to men to monitor the realities and needs of women and men in a manner that contributes to equality and to bridge gender gaps.

In Jordan, women's employment is one of the topics on which much debate arises. Women's work is an important factor in achieving a great deal of equality in the distribution of income, decisions and roles within the family and society at large. This section will examine the reality of women compared to men in the Jordanian labor market based on the results of the general population and housing census 2015, In order to recognize women's economic participation and the challenges they face, many questions must be asked and answered with clarity and credibility before presenting the reality of women in economic development, this will allow the preparation of procedures and the provision of tools for the implementation of these actions and related programs and activities that contribute to the economic improvement of the status of women.

To this end, the current indicators of women's participation in the Jordanian labor market should be highlighted and the basic features of the female labor force should be highlighted, monitoring and analyzing the reality of women's participation in the production process and performance in the labor market and the economic and social conditions surrounding women's employment in Jordan by reviewing the current status of women's participation in the labor market.

Economic participation

The economic participation of women is an important element for achieving equality of opportunity. It is an important issue in the Jordanian labor market, where its Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) affirmed article XIII on the equality of women and men and states that "Member States shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in economic and social life in order to ensure that they have equal rights with men and women". In addition, it was issued recently by the World Economic Forum as Jordan advances in the report of the international competitiveness and ranked 64. Despite this progress, Jordan's ranking in the gender gap report has declined, as this indicator measures the progress made in closing the gender gap in the following four areas: Health and life opportunities, academic achievement, opportunities for economic participation and political empowerment, from 119 out of 134 countries in 2014 to 134 out of 142 countries in 2015, the drop in the gender gap index is due to Jordan's decline in the indicators of opportunity, economic participation and political empowerment. This indicates that efforts to increase the integration of women into Jordanian economic life are still below the required level and that the weak role of women in Jordanian economic life is one of the main problems facing the national economy. This represents additional pressures on the Jordanian economy's productivity and deprives the national economy of economic abilities that are hidden and untapped, which increases the dependency rates in the Jordanian society.

The pace of progress in the rate of economic participation of Jordanian women has been relatively stagnant during the past decade, which is a sharp contrast to the increasing pace of economic growth between the 1994 and 2015 censuses. The increase in women's economic participation has been largely slow, compared with positive economic performance and with substantial progress in human development indicators. According to the general population and housing census data 2015, the results in table 1 show that the percentage of economically active females increased between the 1994 and 2015 censuses from 14.8% to 20.7%, while the percentage of economically active males decreased from 75.7% in 1994 to 66.7% in 2015. The percentage of economically inactive females decreased

from 85.2% in 1994 to 79.3% in 2015, while the percentage of economically inactive males increased from 24.3% to 33.3% during the same time period.

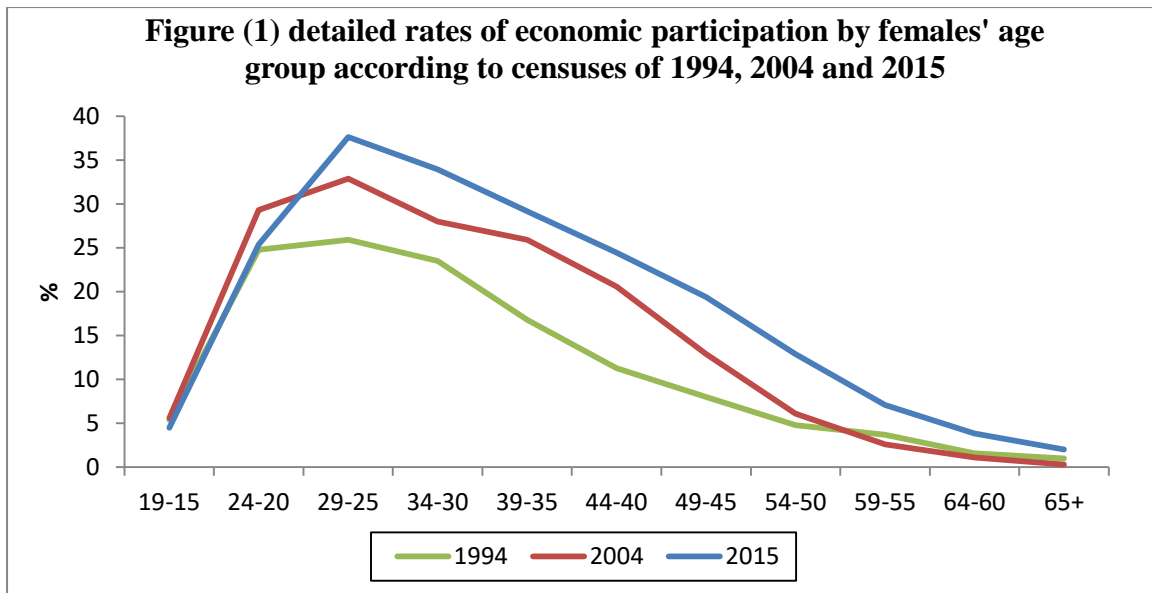
Table (1) the percentage distribution of Jordanians aged 15 years and over by state of economic activity and gender for the years 1994, 2004 and 2015

The state of economic activity	Female			Male		
	1994	2004	2015	1994	2004	2015
Economically Active (employed and unemployed)	14.8	19.0	20.7	75.7	68.6	66.7
Not economically active	85.2	81.0	79.3	24.3	31.4	33.3

Based on these results, a positive tendency in women's contribution to economic life is evident between the 1994 and 2015 censuses, this may be due to the social and economic changes in Jordan, the most important of which is the high level of education, where the percentage of female with a bachelor's degree increased from 5.4% in 1994 to 17.5% in 2015, The average age of unmarried increased from 24.7 years in 1994 to 27.7 years in 2015, and the percentage of female-headed households also increased ,were one household is headed by a female out of every ten households in 1994 and headed one out of every eight households in 2015.

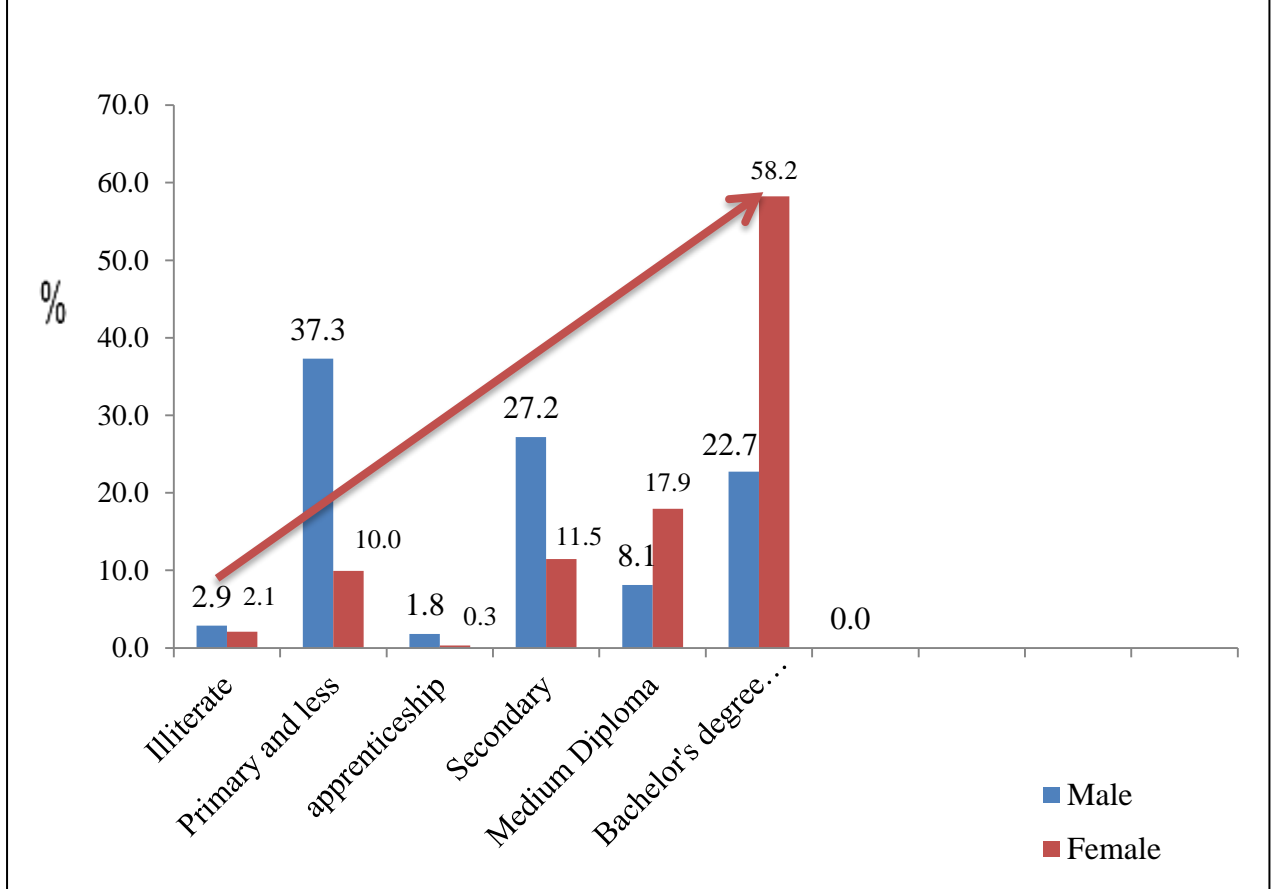
Despite these data, the tendency toward female entry into the labor market is still below the level required, with economic participation rates varying between males and females between 1994 and 2015. As the gender gap decreased from 61% in 1994 to 46% in 2015 and despite this decrease, the gap is still high, indicating that the issue of employment for women is not as important as that of men.

According to the results of the general population and housing census 2015, the detailed rate of females' economic participation by age in the 1994 general population and housing census, showed a pattern similar to that of the detailed rate of economic participation by age. Figure 1 shows that the detailed rate of economic participation by age for Jordanian females begins to increase from 15-19 years to reach a peak in the 25-29 age group, and when following the detailed economic participation rate by age for the Jordanian female, the 2015 census witnessed a significant increase in the detailed rate of economic participation in the 25-29 age group, reaching 37.6% compared with 29% and 33% in the 1994 and 2004 censuses respectively. The increase in the rate in this age group may be due to several reasons, including the high level of education of females, which is reflected in the average age of unmarried of 27.7 years in 2015, which led to the identification of female roles in society - half of which are formed - encouraging them to join the labor market, the current economic conditions force women to remain in the labor market, where women no longer have the option to leave because of the increased cost of living and the fact that young people are aware of their inability to cope with the high economic pressures on their own. After this increase, the detailed rate of economic participation is due to the gradual withdrawal of women from the labor market when they reach their mid-30s to perform their reproductive roles. The detailed rate of economic participation continues to decrease further to its lowest value in the 65-year and above age group.



The data in figure (2) showed the exponential correlation between the rate of economic participation of Jordanian women and the level of education, the higher the level of education of women, the higher the rate of economic participation of women. More than half of the Jordanian female workers in 2015 are graduated from universities, while only 23% of the male workers are employed. It is interesting to note that 37% of employed males have finished the primary stage or less.

Figure (2) The percentage distribution of the employed according to gender and educational level, 2015



Following the educational level of Jordanian female workers between the 1994 and 2015 censuses, there has been a substantial improvement in their educational levels, with the percentage of female workers with BA degree increased from 25.9% in 1994 to 58.2% in 2015. Jordanian women who have a bachelor's degree and a middle diploma in the labor force participate more than their counterparts in the lower educational levels because they are more successful in finding suitable job opportunities. In addition, some studies have shown that highly educated women prefer to work outside the home than less educated women. Despite the apparent improvement in the educational level of female workers, this has not been reflected in the economic participation of Jordanian women.

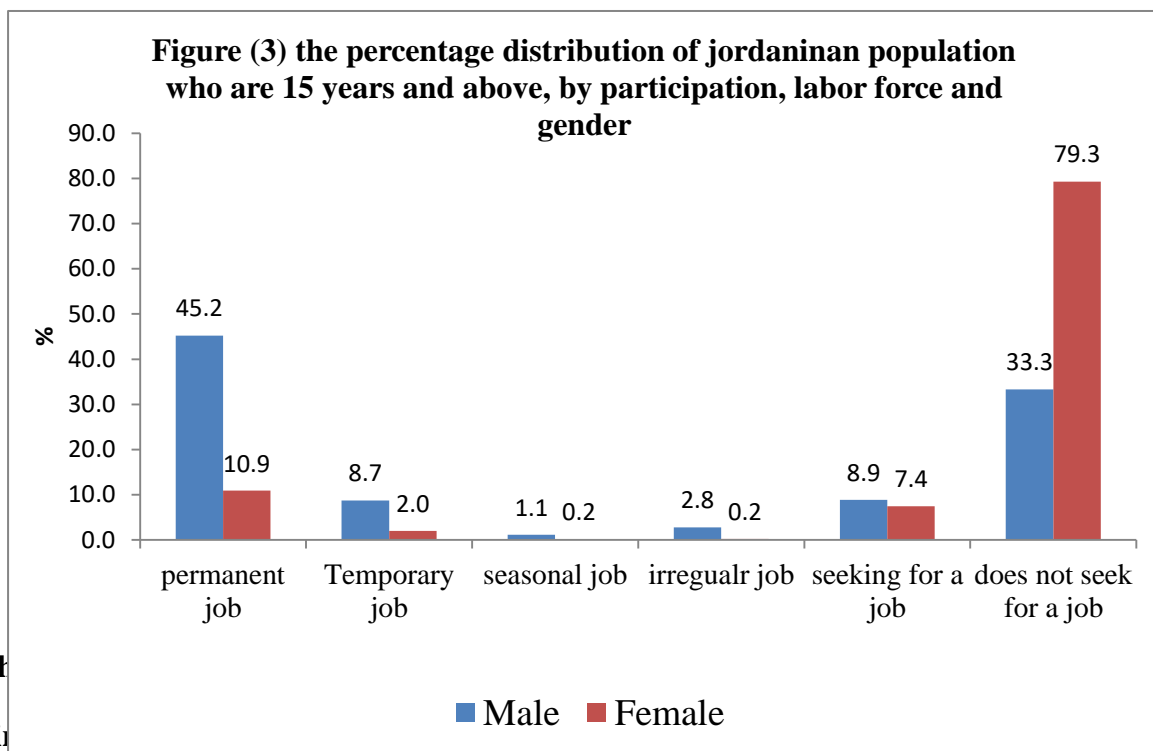
Labor force participation status

When looking at the nature of the Jordanian work, more than a quarter of Jordanians are permanently employed; the permanent work of a 15-year-old in public or private sector in exchange for a cut-off cash payment, this percentage is disproportionately distributed among males and females, with 11%

of all females aged 15 years and above working, against 45% males, i.e. a social gap of 34% for males (figure 3).

The results also showed that only 2% of Jordanian females work in a temporary job (the work of a 15-year-old and above who is a temporary worker and there is no obligation to continue to work, no matter what type of work sector this individual works in but for a limited period, where this work ends from one moment to another. It is worth mentioning that among every thousand Jordanian females there are two females who work in the seasons or work in irregular jobs, which is practiced by the person who is 15 years old and over, It is not systematic but sporadic, which means that the return of work cannot be directly acted upon, thereby reducing the chances of women's economic independence. On the other hand, working in family enterprises or farms is often poorly organized and highly seasonal and does not really contribute to raising the efficiency and training of workers.

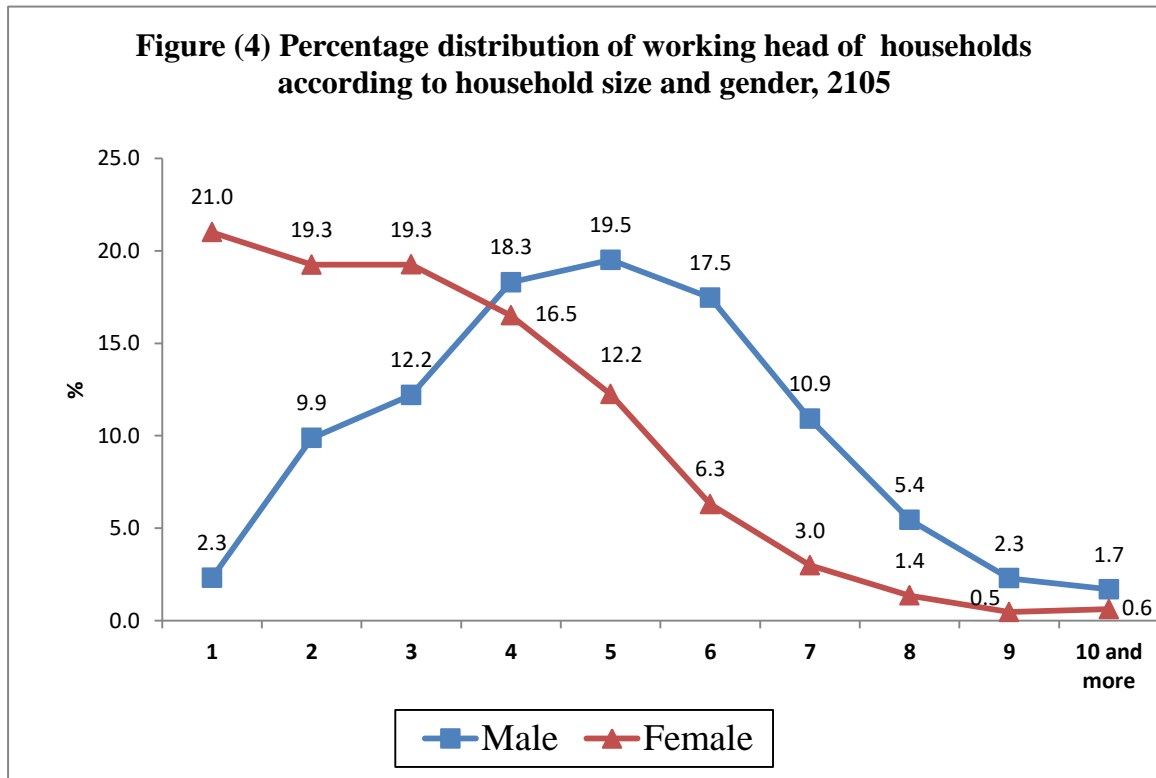
The results of the 2015 general population and housing census indicated that four out of five Jordanian females aged 15 and above were not seeking work against one in three males.



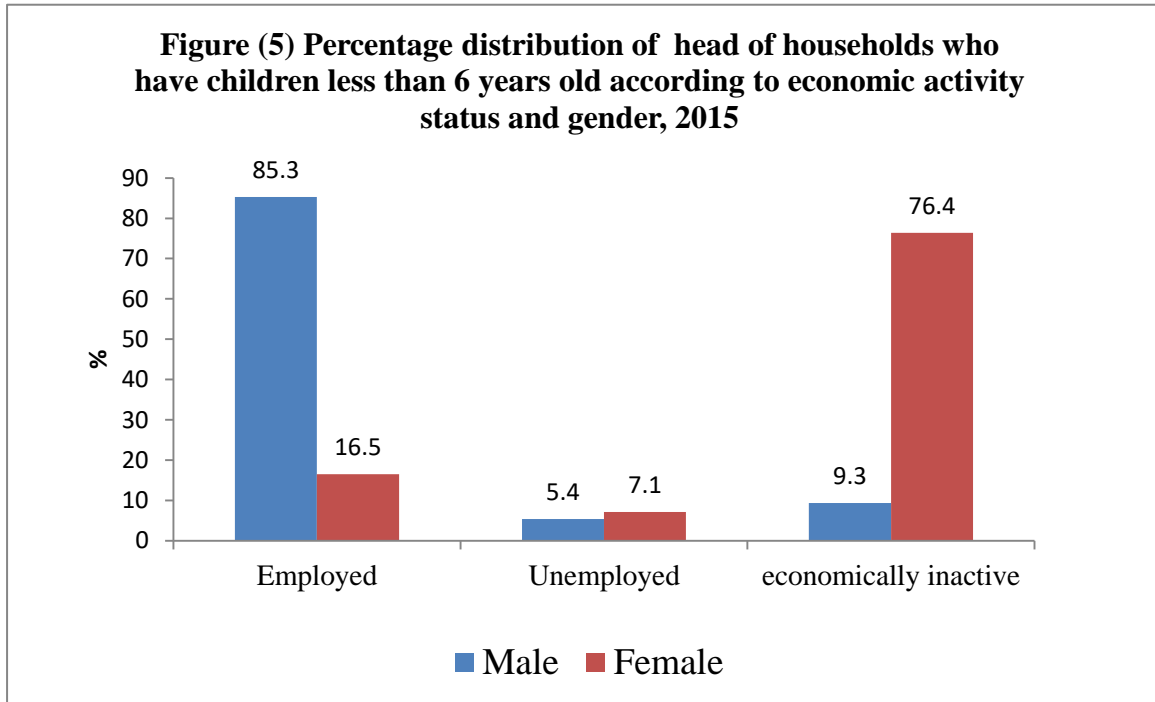
Old social legacies based on the traditional division of roles between women and men continue to play an important role in women's participation in the labor market, which suggests that the issue of employment for women is not as important as that of men. The lack of societal appreciation of women's work makes it natural that their participation is less than that of men, their obligations, responsibilities, their involvement in the upbringing of children and the high cost of facilities for women's work such as nurseries and day-care, which makes the economic utility ineffective. That reality was the most important factor in expelling married women with upbringing burdens from the labor market.

The results showed the tendency toward women's employment, the more household members the less the working females who head households, and when detailed data were considered, the highest percentage of working females who head households was found to be among single-member

households In 21%, followed by households of two or three members, the rates begin to decrease dramatically in female-headed households with more than five members.



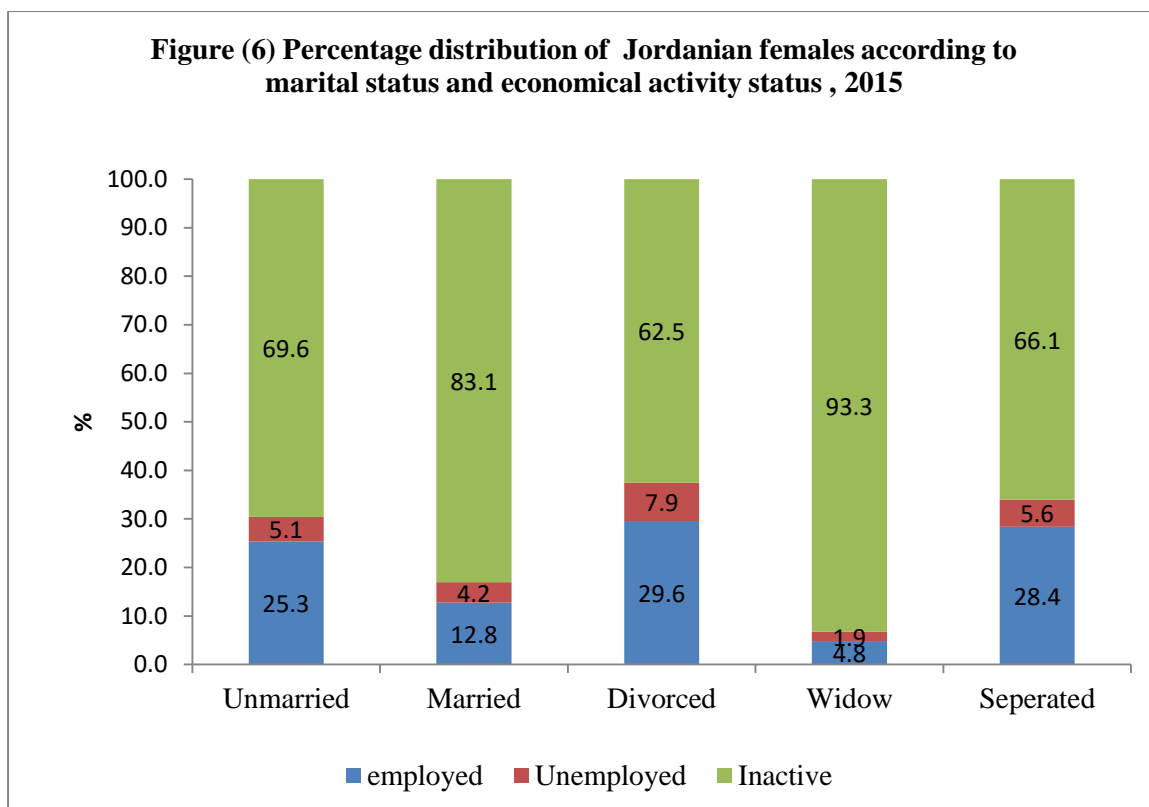
This detailed view confirms that Jordanian society imposes restrictions on women who head their household and hold them responsibility for the care of their households, when taking into account the age of household members under six years of age of female-headed households in employment, data in figure (5) show that female-headed households in employment with children under 6 years of age have not exceeded 17%, while 76.4% of female-headed households are not looking for work (i.e. economically inactive) with children under 6 years of age. These results indicate that the most important factors in expelling female-headed households who have an upbringing burden, since their obligations, responsibilities and concerns to up bring children and the high cost of facilities for women's work such as nurseries and day-care have resulted in useless economic utility.



Second: Marital status

Does the marital status play a role in the decrease of the economic participation of the Jordanian female?

The results showed that 13% of married females are employed, while this rate exceeded the multiple for single females, and reached about 30% among divorced females. This is due to the lack of societal appreciation of women's work, especially married women, so that their participation would naturally be less than that of other women, as they are committed to their obligations, responsibilities and concerns with the upbringing of children and the high cost of facilities for their work, such as the provision of nurseries in the workplace, this is one of the factors of the expulsion of women from the labor market, especially married women.



Thus, there are a number of challenges and other factors contributing to the reduction of women's participation in the labor market, since social change on the one hand has been inadequate and has not been accompanied by institutional changes that facilitate women's work on the other.

Issue 2: Women's access to economic resources

The exclusion of women from participation in many areas of society, whether economic, social or other, has had a negative impact on their status and roles that they were expected to play in these areas if they were able to obtain equal opportunities for participation as men. The denial of access to opportunities for women has led to many negative social and economic phenomena, which affect not only women but also the household and society. This part of the study aims at identifying the reality of Jordanian women's access to economic resources as a family householder through indicators drawn from the general population and housing census data 2015.

What do we mean by the economic empowerment of women? What is the relationship between the economic empowerment of women and their access to economic resources?

Economic empowerment is defined as providing women with greater access to and control over resources in society. This is the most recent approach in the third world, since women have low incomes compared to men. Access to resources is defined as providing women with an opportunity to own resources compared to men and increase their access to economic resources, thereby enhancing their decision-making capacity, where women play their natural role alongside men, which calls for

the promotion of an enabling environment so that they can be better effective in society to improve and enhance their living and economic status.

Thus, the concept of empowerment includes women's free choice between available alternatives, as well as their decision-making capacity, which confirms the separation of the women's economic participation index from the issue of empowerment, which underlines the need to develop indicators that measure economic empowerment. The economic empowerment of women means control and access to economic resources such as men, especially in land and apartment's ownership, financial stock ownership and even access to educational opportunities, enhances their ability to choose by increasing their control over economic assets.

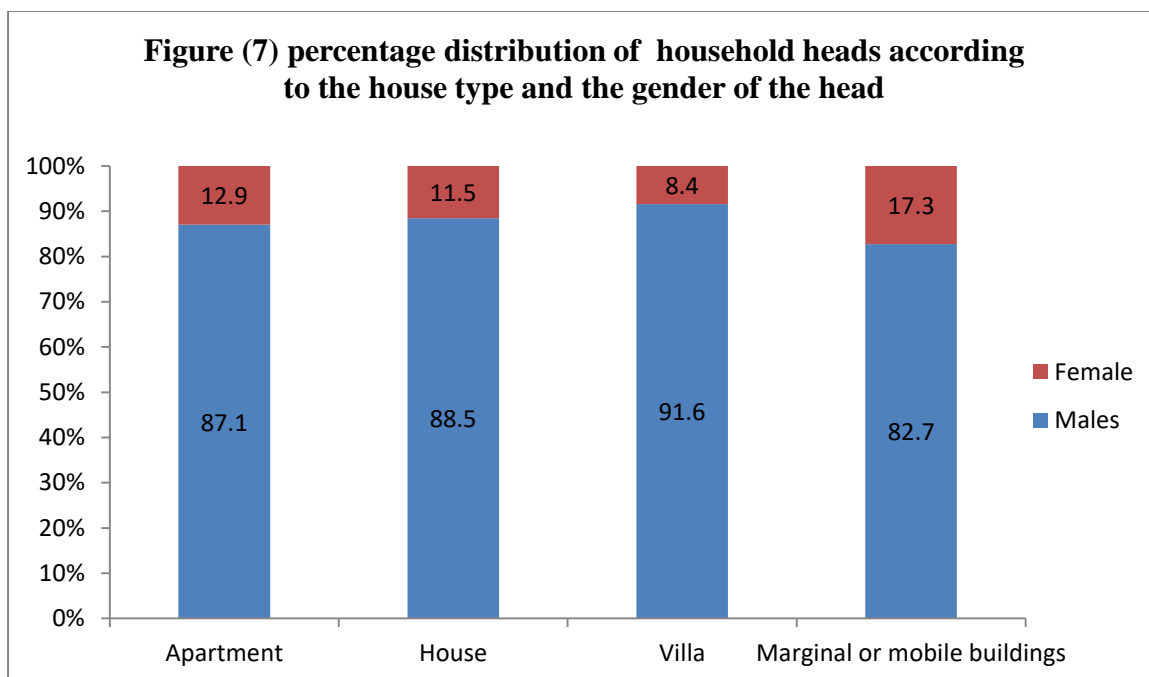
As with women's economic participation, achievements in human development still require significant improvements in women's ability to choose, given the continuing challenges that continue to face their ability to choose in the social, economic and political spheres, this has been reflected in the ownership and control of assets such as land and houses.

Are women still subject to deprivation of ownership in comparison with men?

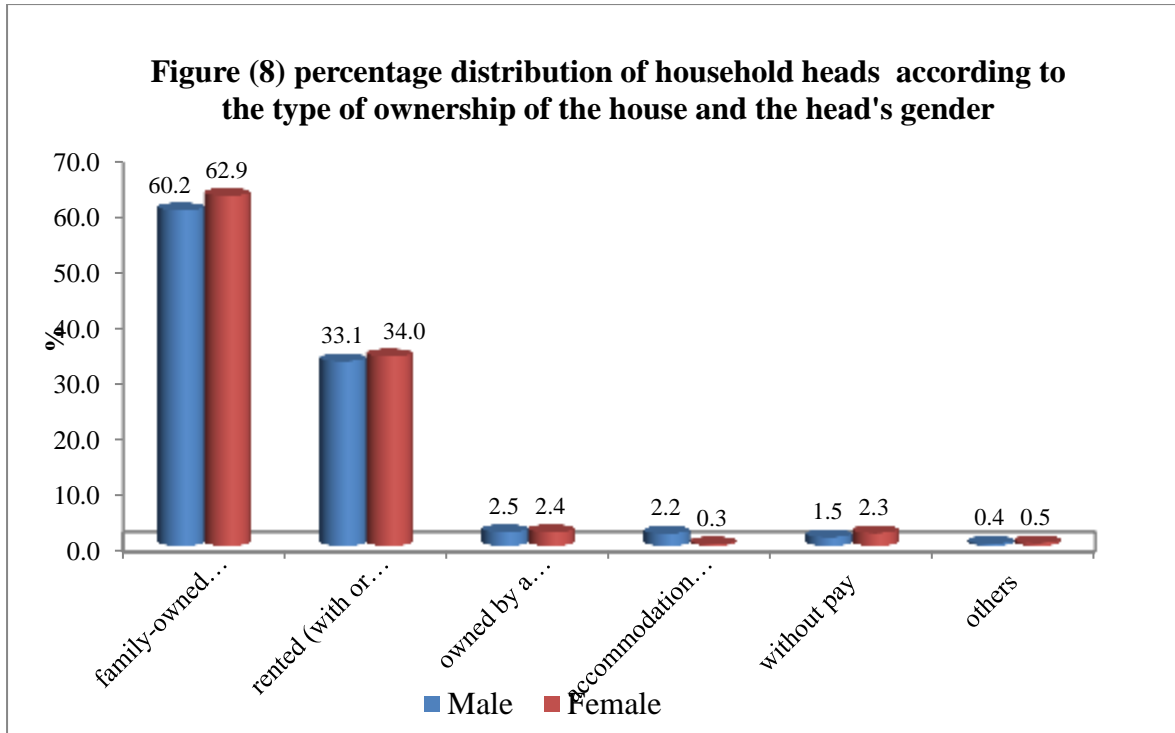
The social and economic changes that Jordan witnessed, represented in the improvement of women's situations in general, played an essential role in causing effects on the inherited traditions and customs, Women have begun to be free from these customs and traditions, particularly those relating to their deprivation of home ownership - where housing is an important economic asset that will improve the living conditions of women, particularly households headed by women .The results showed a marked increase in the 1979-2015 period. While 1 woman headed one household out of every 11 households in 1979, now heads one out of every eight households in 2015.

The data showed a decrease in the rate of households who own a house between the 2004 and 2015 censuses, from 66.4% to 60.6%, This decrease is due to the increase in the percentage of non-Jordanian residents living in Jordan, which increased from 7% according to the results of the general population and housing census 2004 to 30% according to the results of the general population and housing census 2015. In analyzing the results from a gender perspective, it is noted that the ownership of households in Jordan headed by a woman in which she lives decreased from 75% in 2004 to 62.9% in 2015, on the other hand, the rate of households headed by a man in which he lives decreased from 65.5% to 60.2% between the two years mentioned.

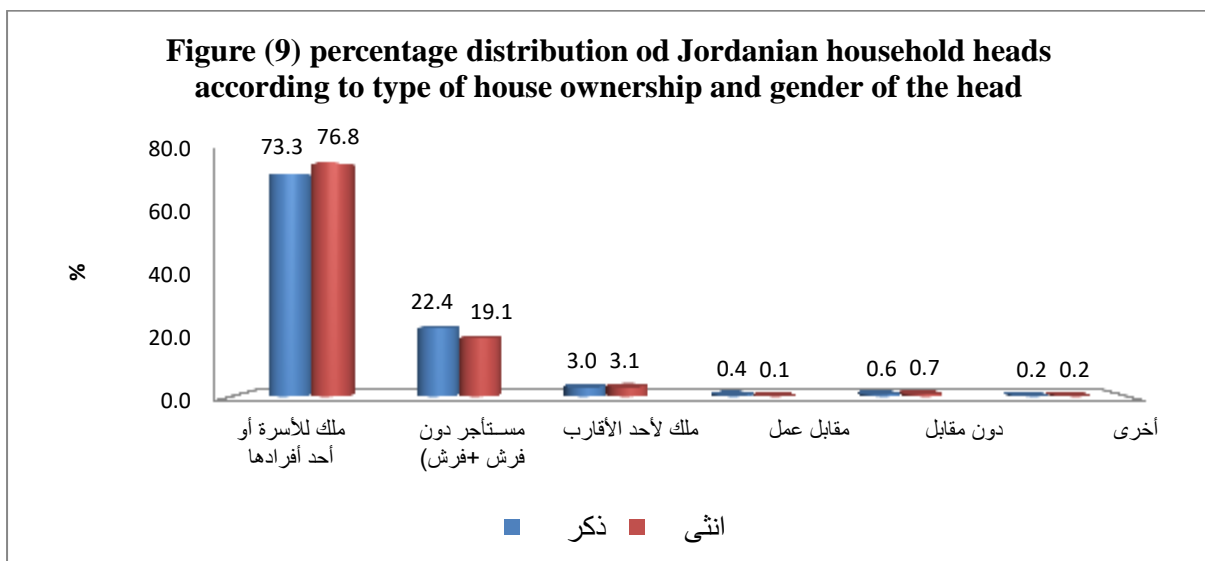
Figure 7 shows the percentage distribution of heads of household according to the type of housing in which the household resides, shows that the majority of heads of household living in houses of villa type, apartment, house or marginal buildings are male-headed households. The percentage of female-headed households living in different types of houses did not exceed 13% except marginal or mobile buildings (caravans, tent/hair house). The percentage of female -headed households living in caravan-type homes increased by 17.3% and 19.7%. The low percentage of households headed by a woman and residing in a villa is noteworthy, with only 9% of the total households living in villa-type housing.

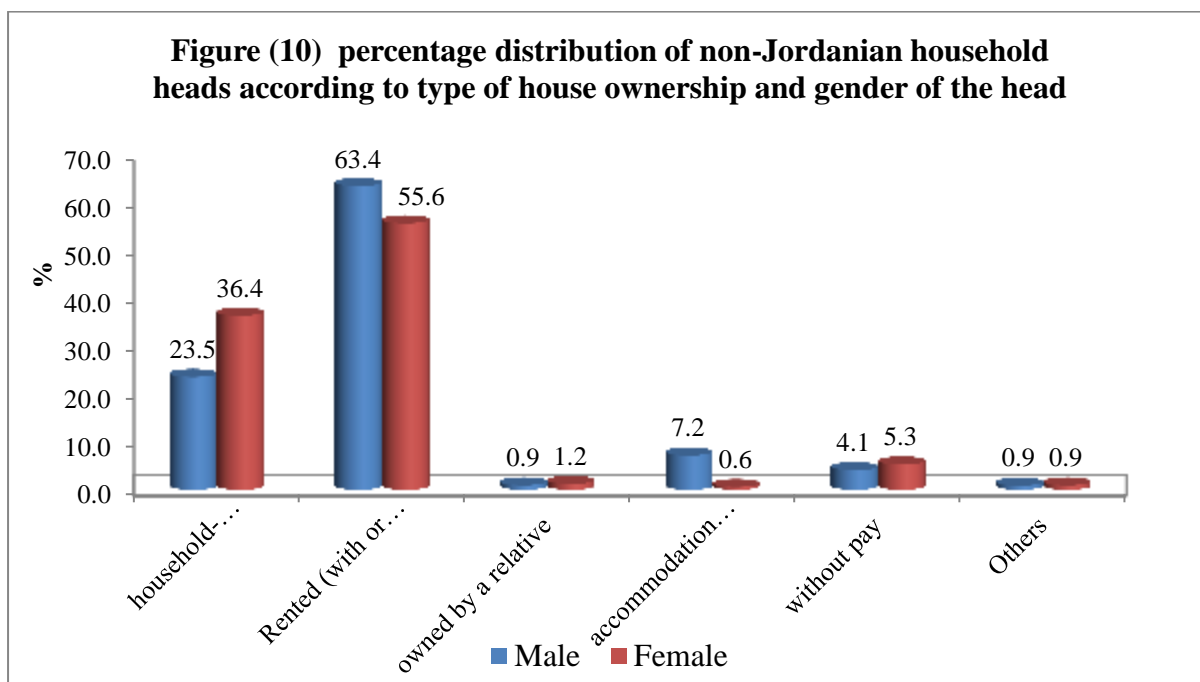


With regard to the type of ownership of the house in which the family resides, figure 8 shows that three out of five households headed by a female in Jordan live in household-owned house, and one in three female-headed households in Jordan lived in rented accommodation. On the other hand, the percentage of households headed by a female who lived in houses owned by a relative, paid for work or without pay was very low and reached a minimum level of accommodation for work.



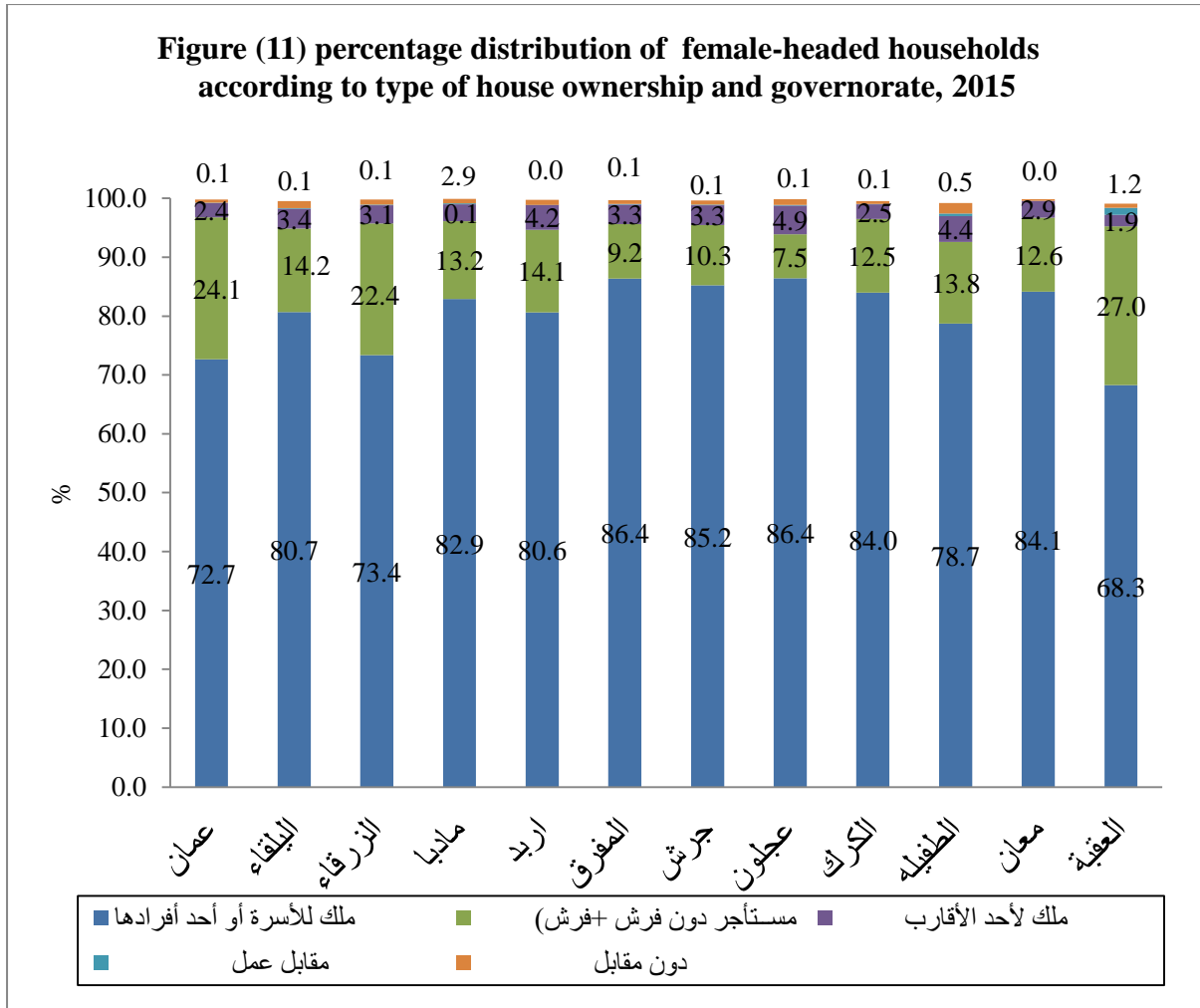
The results also showed differences in the type of house ownership according to nationality, it is noticeable that three out of four Jordanian households headed by a female have the residence in which they live. On the other hand, this rate did not exceed 36% of non-Jordanian female-headed households, and it was also noted that one in five Jordanian female-headed households lives in a rented house, while more than half of non-Jordanian female-headed households live in rented houses. In addition, the results showed that one in every thousand Jordanian households headed by a female lived in a house in return for work, and that number increased to six out of every thousand non-Jordanian households headed by a female (figures 9 and 10).





In view of figure 11, geographical distribution has no effect on the type of ownership of female-headed households, since the majority of female-headed households reside in family-owned building, with the exception of three governorates of Aqaba, Amman and Zarqa. Data showed that one household in four female-headed households in Aqaba or Amman live in rented houses, and one household in five female-headed households in Zarqa live in rented houses.

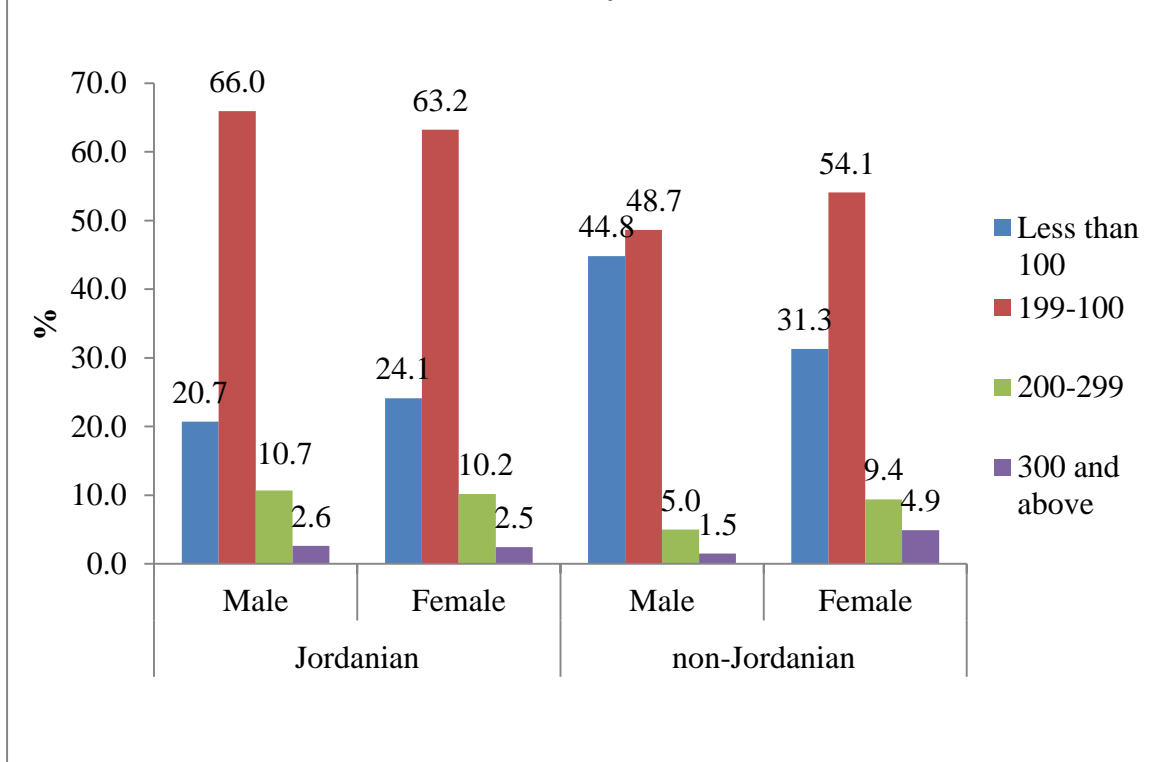
Figure (11) percentage distribution of female-headed households according to type of house ownership and governorate, 2015



The results of the general population and housing census 2015 showed that 20.7% of households headed by a Jordanian male live in houses with small areas of less than 100 square meters, and that percentage of households headed by a non-Jordanian male increased to 44.8%. In contrast, the percentage of households headed by a Jordanian female who live in houses less than 100 square meters was 24%, compared with 31.3% for households headed by non-Jordanian females. In general, non-Jordanian households tend to live in small houses of less than 100 square meters. The results also showed that two out of three Jordanian households live in houses ranging from 100 to 199 square meters, regardless of the family head's gender (Figure 12).

According to geographical distribution, the results showed clear disparities between governorates as the percentage of households headed by a Jordanian female in Karak governorate did not exceed 15 % in houses ranging from 100 to 199 square meters, while the rate of Jordanian female-headed households in Aqaba governorate increased to 43%.

Figure (12) percentage distribution of households according to house area in square meters, gender of the head and his nationality,2015



Possession of durable commodities

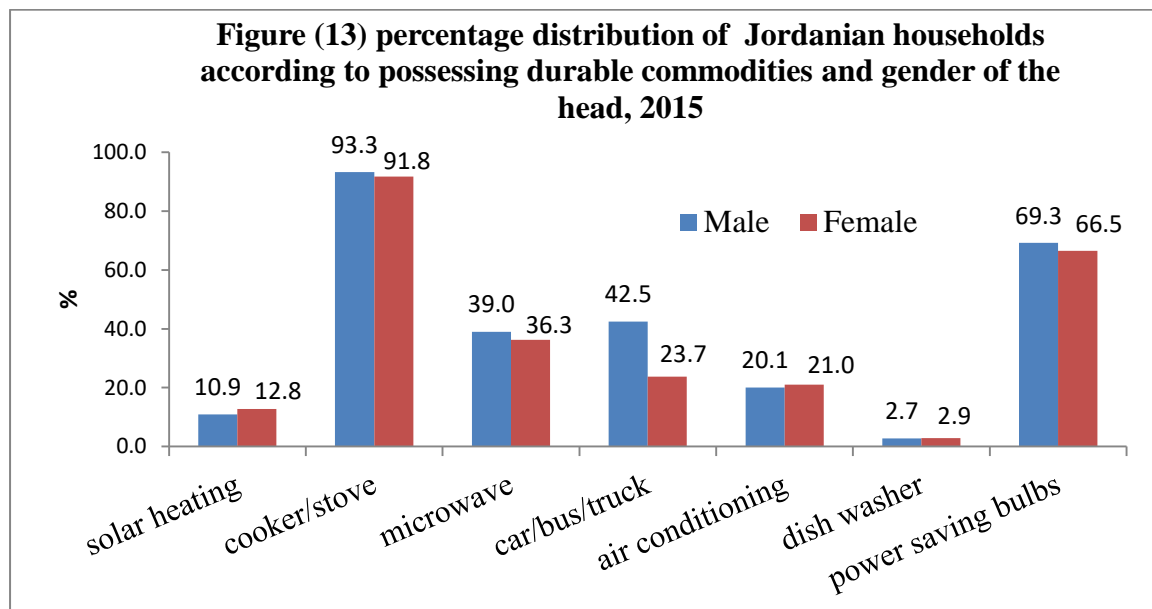
The need for women to control economic resources of all kinds, such as durable goods, communications equipment and other commodities, has become a necessity and a key element that has positive implications for their standard of living and their families through greater self-confidence and their pursuit of equality with men in the rights and duties of all kinds, the greater the control of women over these resources, the stronger they can negotiate within their families.

The results of the general population and housing census, 2015, showed that the vast majority of households, regardless of gender of the head of the family, have an oven (stove/cooker/gas) where the gender gap did not exceed 2%. The results showed that 36% of female-headed households have a microwave, and this rate increased among Jordanian female-headed households from non-Jordanian female-headed household by 8%. In addition, 39% of households headed by a man with a microwave have increased to 46% compared to 20% of non-Jordanians (Figure 13).

The results also showed that one household in five households live in Jordan have air conditioning. Jordanian males who head households tend to have a more adapted status than Jordanian females heading households, with rates (22.7% and 20.2%) respectively, indicating that male heads of household have sufficient income to own air conditioning. It should be noted that the availability of air conditioning in non-Jordanian households tended to benefit the female-headed households by 9%. (Figure 14 and 15).

It is interesting to note that households living in Aqaba tend to have air conditioning than those living in other governorates, where households own air conditioning reached 69% of the total households, i.e. two households from every three households in Aqaba have air conditioning. Female-headed households with air conditioning in Aqaba reached 63.5% compared to 70% for males. While households living in Ajlun, regardless of gender of the head of the household, are less inclined to have air conditioning, the rate among male-headed households is 5.2%; the percentage of female-headed household with air conditioning did not exceed 5% due to the moderate climate in the governorate.

Figure (13) shows that females heading households in Jordan are more inclined than males who head their households to possess a solar heater in percentages (12.8% and 10.9%) respectively. The highest percentage of Jordanian female-headed households with a solar heater was found in Amman at 18.6% and the non-Jordanian female-headed households increased to about 21% of the total female-headed households in the Amman. It is worth mentioning that the Jordanian households headed by a female in Al-Mafraq were the least among the governorates in the availability of the solar heater as it did not exceed 5%. (Figure 14 and 15).



On the other hand, the data showed that there is a high gap in Jordan for the males who head their households in the availability of the car of any kind (car, bus, truck), where the gap reached 18.8%, the data also noted a large disparity between Jordanian male and female heads of household in the availability of a car, and more than half of male-headed households have a car, compared to 25% for female-headed households. Non-Jordanian households have less than tendency from Jordanian households in owning the car, where the percentage of non-Jordanian households did not exceed 18% of the total non-Jordanian households; the percentage of non-Jordanian females who head their households and have a car was six percentage points higher than that of males.

Data show a clear disparity in the availability of a car in households according to geographical distribution. Amman was the highest governorate in the percentage of households headed by Jordanian females and had a car at a value of 35%, while Ma'an recorded the lowest rate of 13%. (Figure 13 and 14).

The results of the general population and housing census, 2015, indicated that a small percentage of households have electrical devices that are considered as luxurious commodity as dishwasher, with

only 2.8%. In view of the results by nationality, the percentage of non-Jordanian females who head their households and possess a dishwasher is 1.4% higher than the rate between Jordanian females. The Jordanian males who headed their households was more inclined to own this commodity than non-Jordanian males who headed their households at rates of 3.0% and 1.9% respectively.

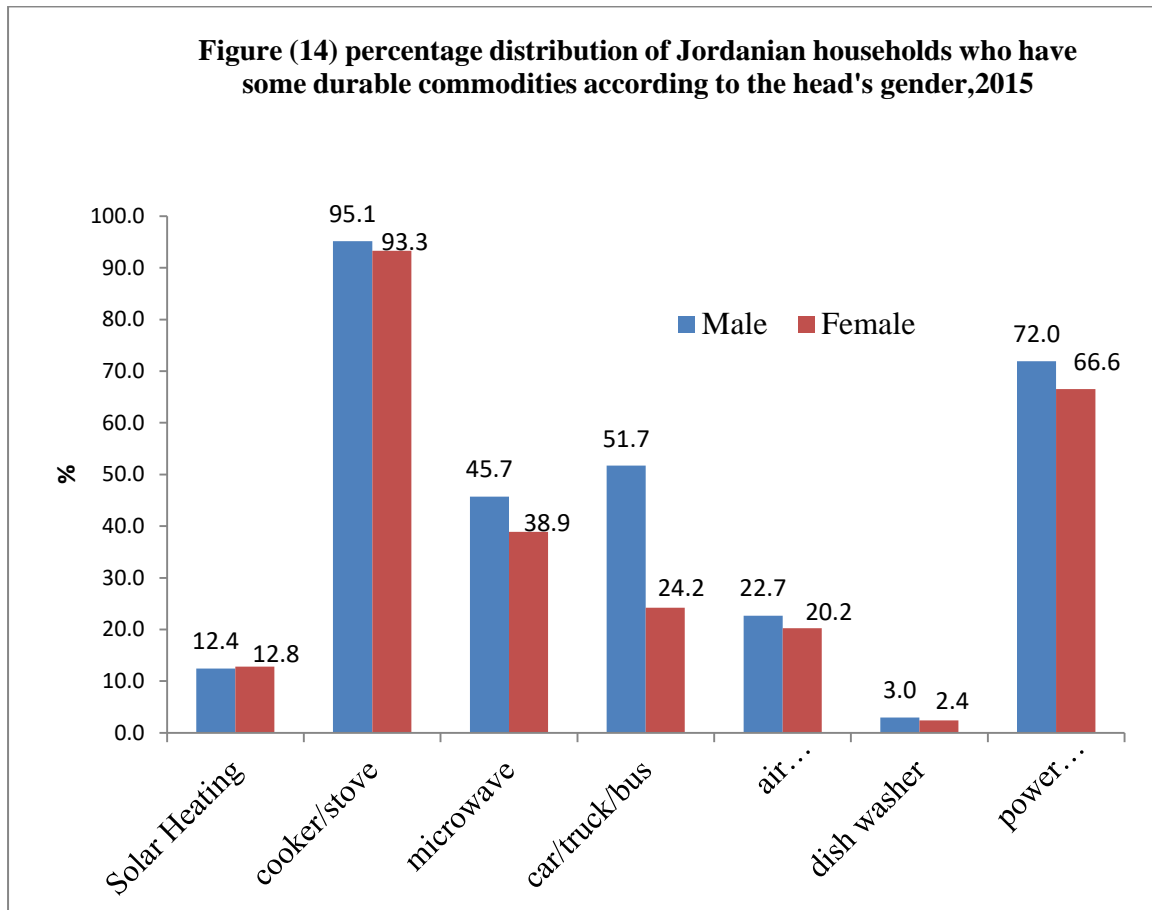
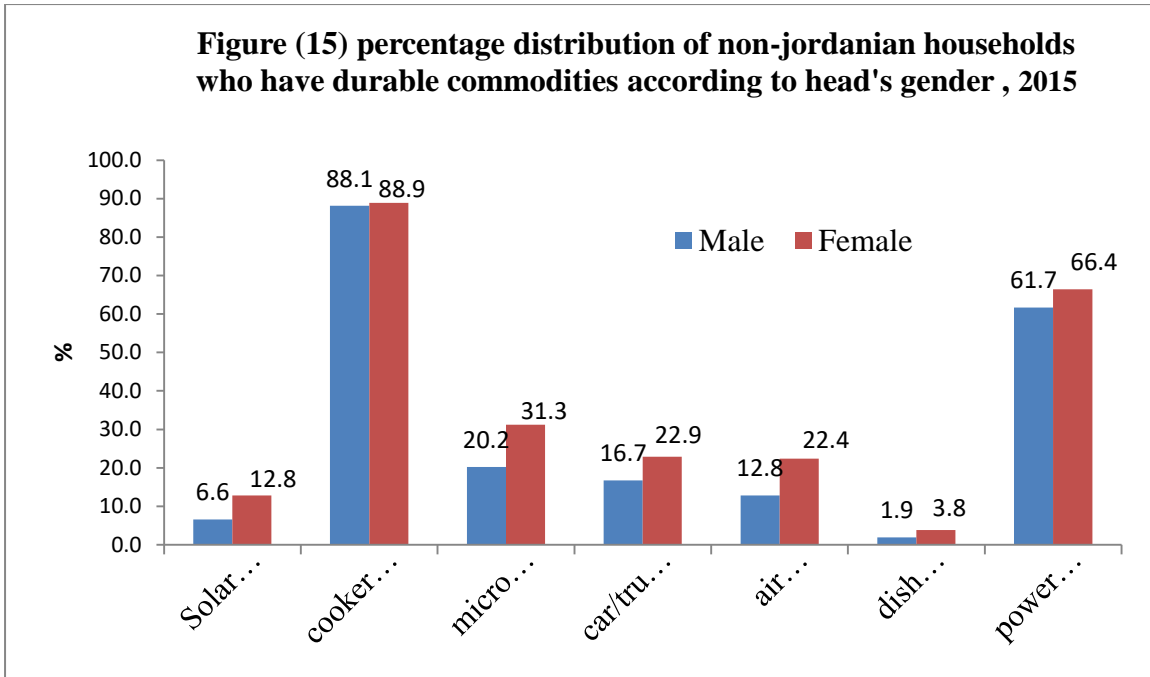


Figure (15) percentage distribution of non-jordanian households who have durable commodities according to head's gender , 2015



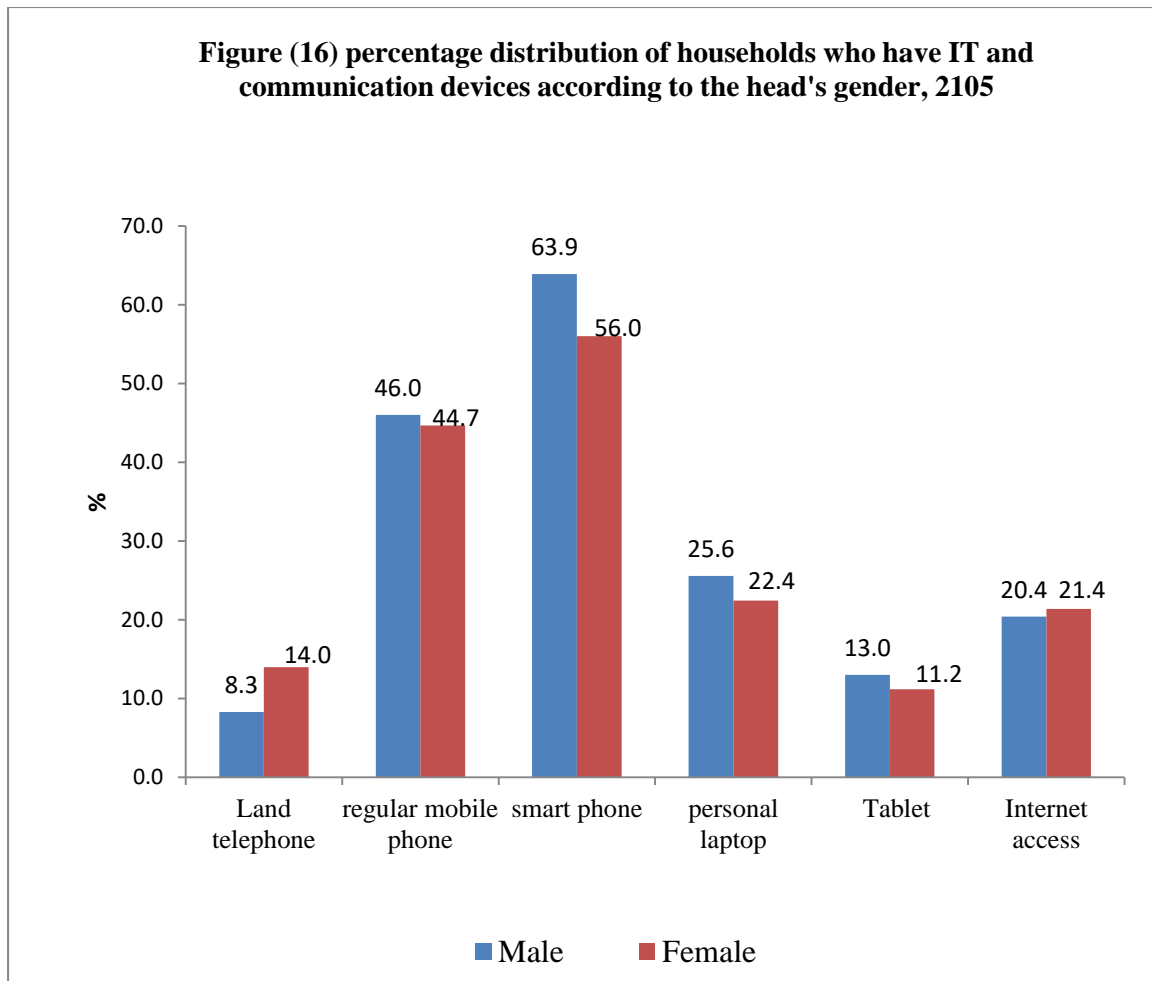
Possession of modern communication devices

Women were not isolated from Jordan's ICT development, they contributed to information technology as men because they can gain experience and skill in this field, and enable them to obtain distinguished jobs and hold high positions, as well as their participation in decision-making. The availability of modern communication systems also has an impact on enhancing women's capacity to make community-based decisions alongside men, which effectively contributes to improving their income level and achieving a decent life for themselves and their families.

The results of the general population and housing census 2015 indicated that two households from three households in Jordan have a smartphone. The Jordanian males who head their households tend to possess smart phones more than the female heads of their households, as two thirds of the Jordanian males who head their households have a smart phone. In contrast, more than half of the Jordanian female heads of their households own this device. The percentage of Jordanian female-headed households who own smart phones varied according to geographical distribution, the highest percentage of female-headed households with a smartphone is in Amman where the rate reached 64.9%, the lowest in Ma'an at 32.8% (Figure 16).

It is noted from the data that there is a tendency among the female heads of their households in Jordan to have land telephones more than the male heads of their households. The gender gap reached 5.7% for females, while the males who head their households recorded a higher percentage in the possession of ordinary mobile phones than the female heads of their households with a difference of 1.3 %.

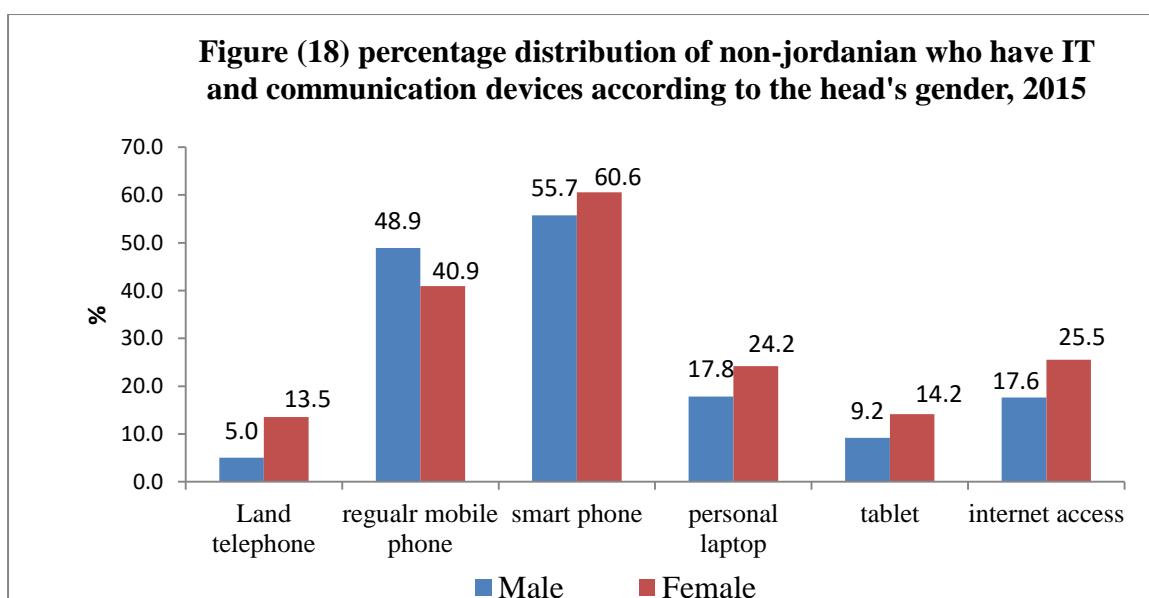
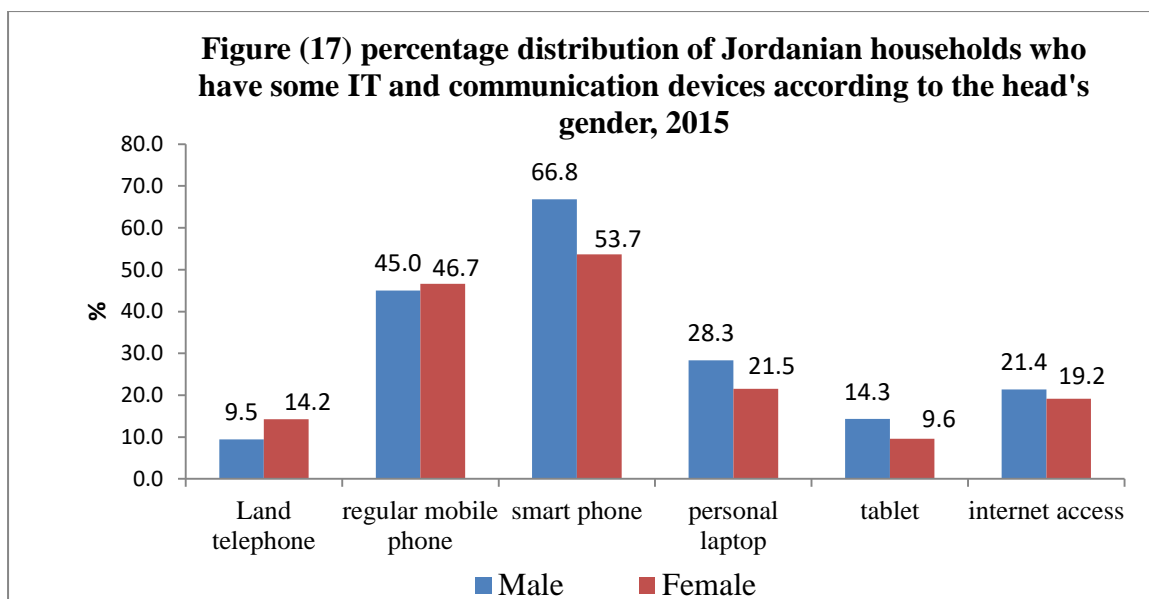
Figure (16) percentage distribution of households who have IT and communication devices according to the head's gender, 2105



The importance of information technology is increasing with the spread of the internet, which has enabled the individual to access countless services, from access to various kinds of information to shopping, and entertainment facilities, not to mention the ease that internet provides for communication with people inside and outside the country. Modern information networks and knowledge tools provide equal access to knowledge and work between the two sexes, as well as the dissemination of awareness in the development of the infrastructure of an information society, in which women have a prominent role to play.

The results of the general population and housing census, 2015, showed that one out of every five female-headed households in Jordan have internet access, the results showed that one quarter of households headed by non-Jordanian females have internet access, while this rate did not exceed 18% among non-Jordanian males who head their households. At the governorate level, Amman recorded the highest percentage of households headed by females and has Internet access with a rate of about 30%, while Ma'an recorded the lowest rate of female-headed households with Internet access of 4.8%.

12.8% of households in Jordan have tablets, and these rates vary slightly between male-headed households and female-headed households with rates of 13.0% and 11.2% respectively. It is also noted that Jordanian males who head their households are more inclined to own this device than Jordanian females who head their households and have a social gender gap of 4.8% for males. The gender gap is clearly visible to non-Jordanian females who head their households at a rate of 5% (Figure 17 and 18).



Issue 3: Early marriage

Some negative phenomena still prevail in Arab societies despite the social change witnessed by these societies. Among these phenomena is the phenomenon of early marriage, which, despite its low levels, still exists in some Arab societies and with varying degrees. The existence of this phenomenon is due to the traditional customs and traditions which consider that the female role is confined to reproduction only. The fact that women are kept away from participating in the labor market and that they do not continue their higher education has contributed to the survival of this phenomenon.

The phenomenon of early marriage prevails in Jordan, like other Arab countries, but the levels of this phenomenon are low and gradually decreasing as a result of the continuous changes in the social and economic reality of Jordanian women. The decline in the prevalence of this phenomenon in Jordan is due to many reasons, perhaps the most important of which is the legislation establishing the age of marriage for females, (Personal Status Act No. 36 of 2010, art. 10), which stipulates that: "The eligibility of marriage shall be required for both parties to be reasonable and to be 18 years of age. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this article, the judge may authorize marriage of the more than 15

years of age in accordance with instructions issued to that end if his marriage is necessary for the interest...). High levels of education among women help to delay their marriage and a slight rise in economic participation.

The definition of the term “early marriage” varies according to the age of marriage, in terms of mental and physical development. The UNICEF Children's Rights Document defined early marriage as marriage under the age of 18 at a time when the girl is in school and is in adolescence.

This part of the study aims to highlight the reality of the phenomenon of early marriage in Jordan between Jordanian and non-Jordanian females from the data of the general population and housing census 2015. This is because the percentage of males married before the age of 18 has not exceeded 1% of the total male population aged 13 years and over.

Early marriage phenomenon in Jordan

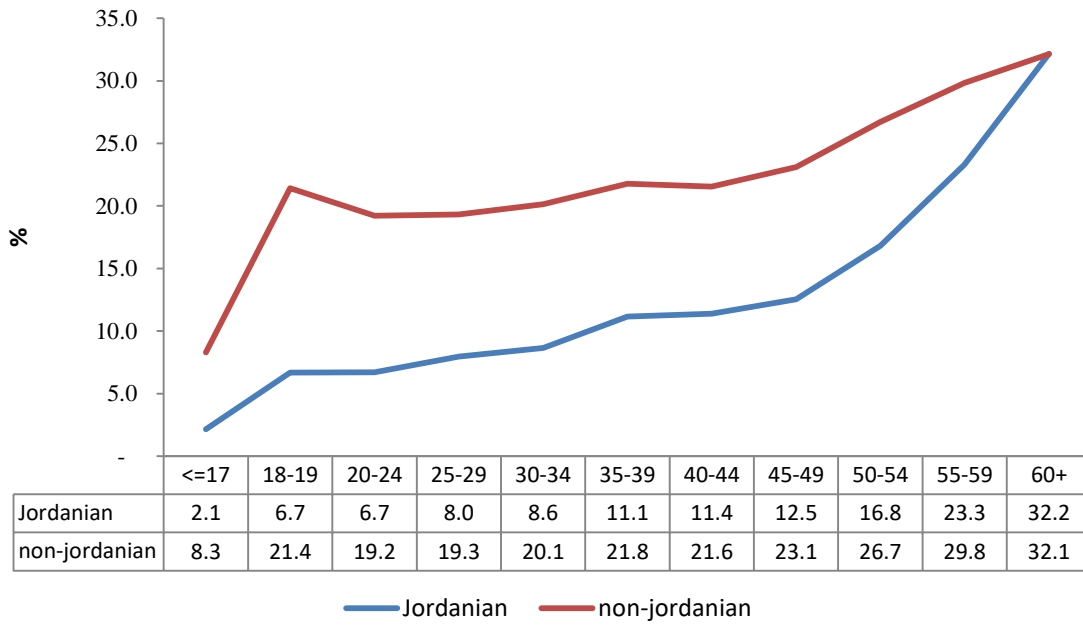
The phenomenon of early marriage is one of the reasons why young girls do not have access to their rights, endanger their lives and deprive them of education and the exercise of their rights as children. Globally, the 2013 State of the World's Population report confirms 20,000 births per day to girls under 18 in developing countries, and the number is significantly lower in developed countries. There are 70,000 teenage deaths due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth, about 3.2 million unsafe abortions among adolescent girls a year, and 19% of girls in developing countries become pregnant before they reach the age of 18.

The general population and housing census data 2015 showed that 6.6% of the population aged 13 and above in Jordan had first married before reaching 18 years of age. The rate between males and females was unevenly distributed, with the rate of females at 13.5% compared with 1.2% among males. When considering nationality, the percentage of Jordanian females who married before 18 years of age was 11.2%, while the rate among non-Jordanian females was 19.9%.

Figure (19) indicates a direct relationship between the percentage of females who marry before they reach 18 years of age and their current age, as the current age increases, the percentage of females who marry early becomes more. Data indicate that one third of the Jordanian and non-Jordanian females who are currently aged 60 years and over are married early, while this rate decreased in the ages of 18 to 2.1% for Jordanians and 8.2% for non-Jordanians.

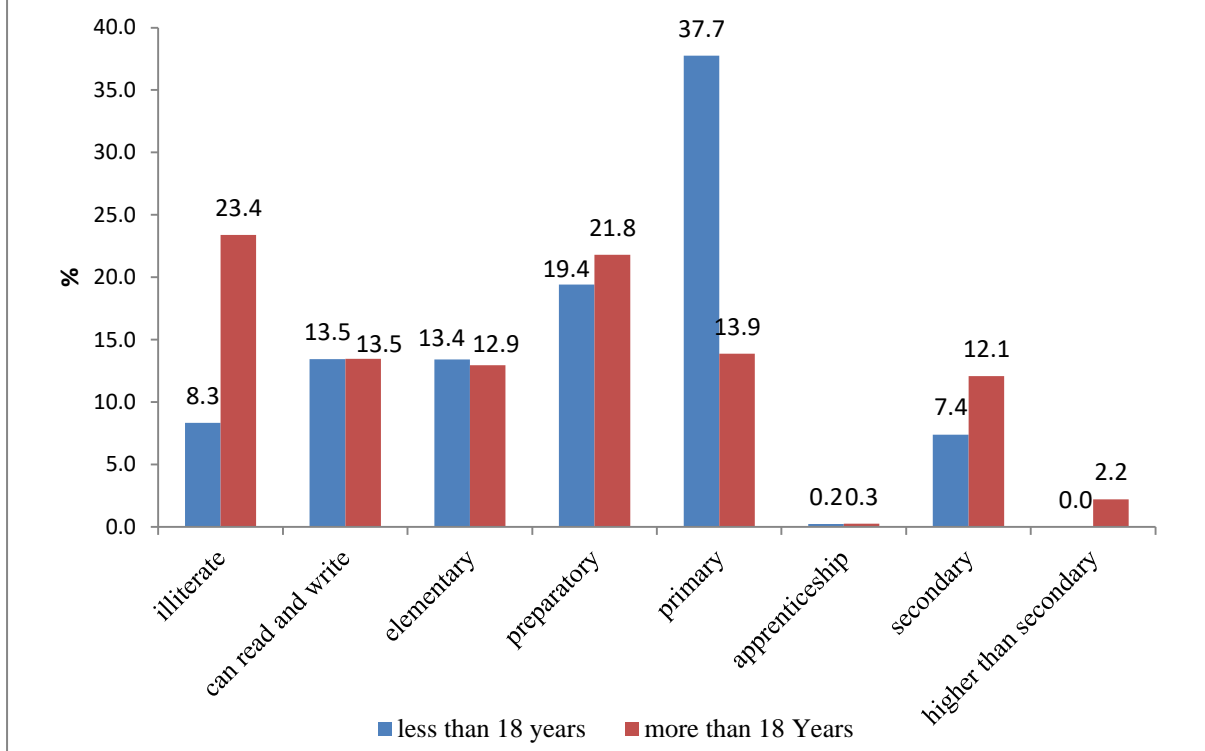
Data indicate that there are substantial differences between Jordanian and non-Jordanian females in early marriage rates, as the percentage of Jordanian females in all age groups is decreasing sharply, the percentage of Jordanian females married early decreased to approximately 11% between the age groups 55-59 and 45-49, and the decrease was less sharp in other age groups with the a decrease between the two age groups 40-44 years and 20-24 years at about 5%. The decrease was less sharp among Jordanian females, the rate of non-Jordanian females who married early dropping by about 6% between the two age groups 55-59, 45-49 and only 2% between the two age groups 40-44 and 20-24 years. This data shows that although this phenomenon has declined in Jordan, it still exists and may be due to the demographic composition of Jordanian society imposed by the political conditions in the region (Figure 19).

Figure (19) percentge distribution of females who were first married before reaching 18 according to age group and nationality, 2015



In general, 38% of the women who marry before they reach 18 years of age are under 18 years of the primary education certificate campaign. In contrast, 23% of the women who married before the age of 18 years are older than 18 years of age who do not know to read and write, and 22% of them have completed preparatory education (figure 20).

Figure (20) percentage distribution of females who were first married before reaching 18 according to age and educational level, 2015

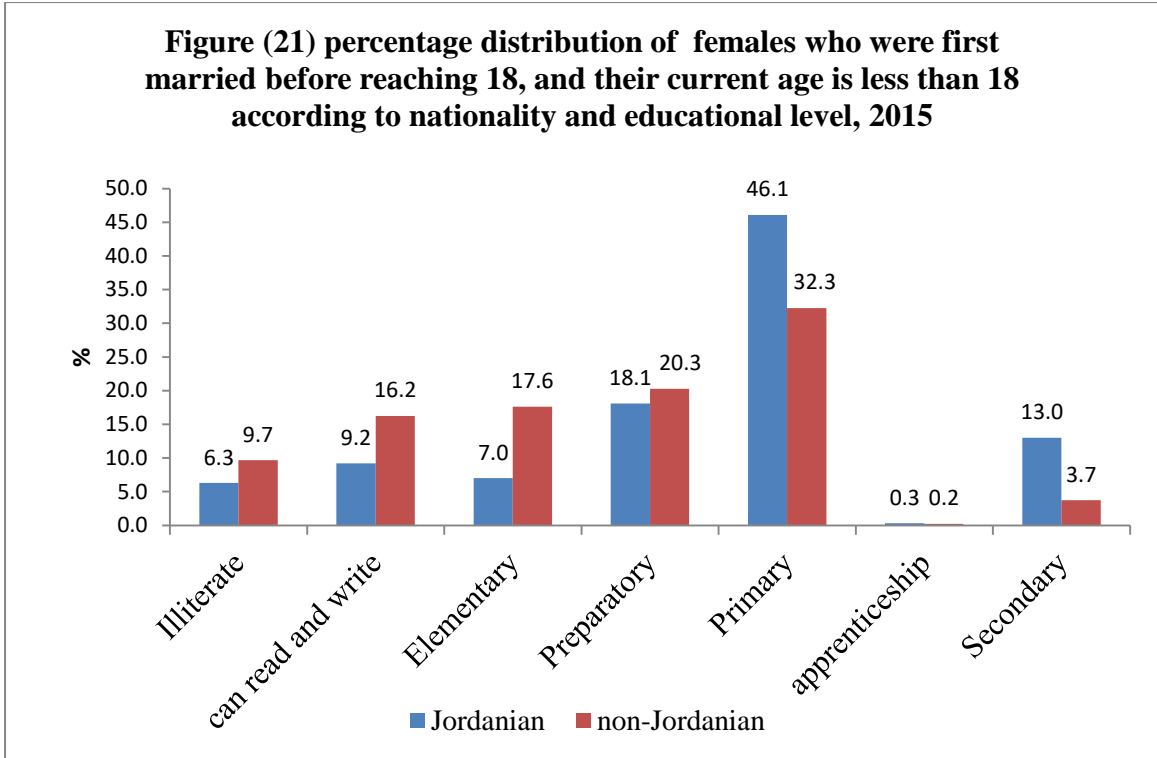


Despite the Kingdom's policy of compulsory education and free education for the primary stage, it did not limit the existence of the phenomenon of early marriage between Jordanian females, It is clear that 86.7% of the Jordanian females who marry early and current age are less than 18 years old and have not completed the primary stage or completed the primary stage (Figure 21).

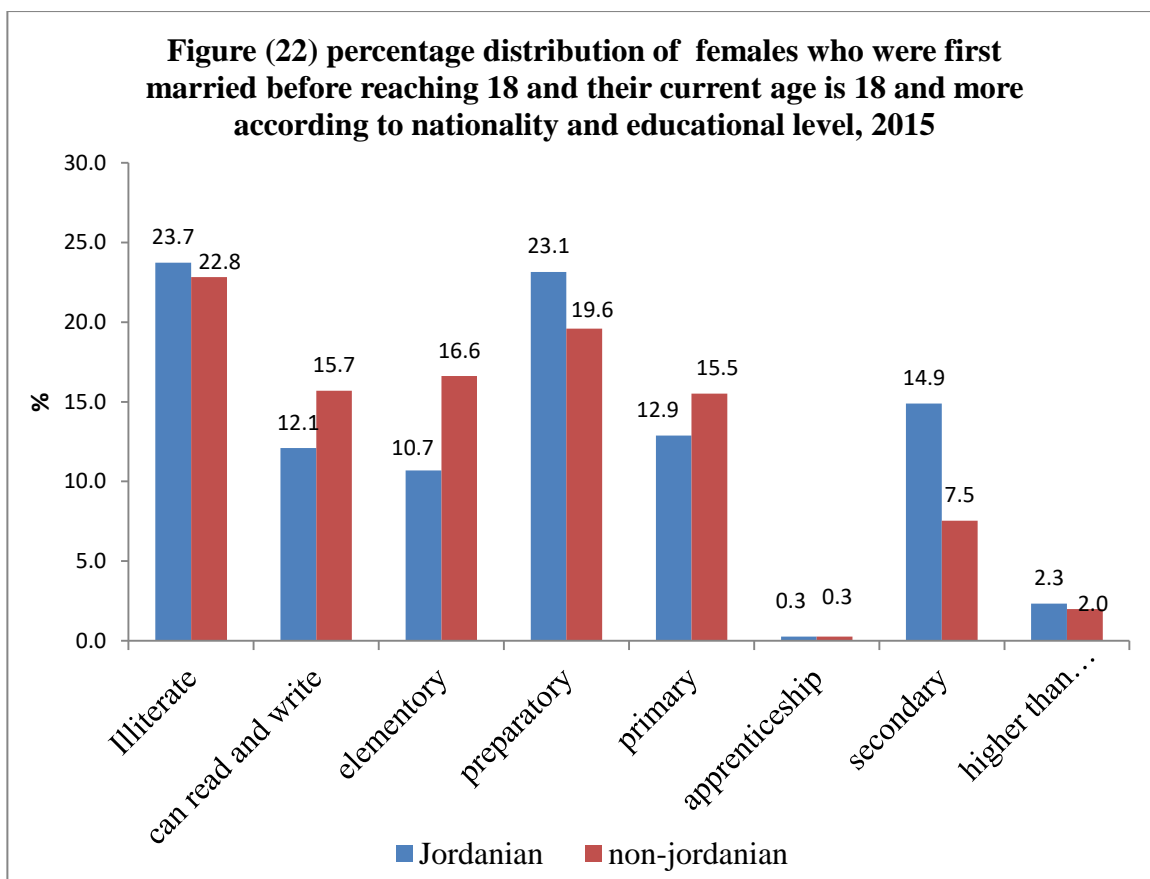
The higher the level of education for females, the fewer early marriages, and the percentage of Jordanian females who married early and enrolled secondary stage did not exceed 13%. The economic situation of Jordanian households and the high cost of higher education in Jordan may be one of the main reasons why girls are not enrolled in higher education (after secondary school) and prefer to marry at the first marriage opportunity.

The pattern of early marriage at non-Jordanian females did not differ from that of Jordanian females, as the vast majority of non-Jordanian females who marry early and their current ages are less than 18 years old and have not completed or completed the primary stage. The percentage of non-Jordanian early married women who completed the secondary stage did not exceed 4%.

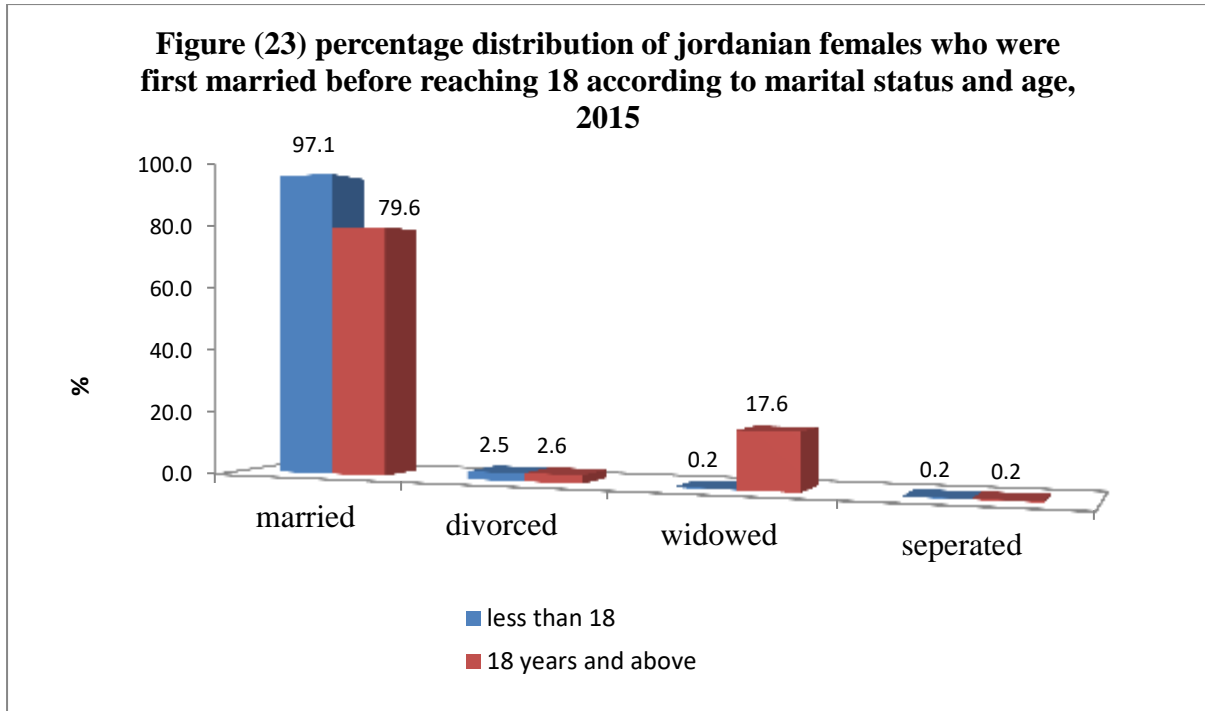
Figure (21) percentage distribution of females who were first married before reaching 18, and their current age is less than 18 according to nationality and educational level, 2015



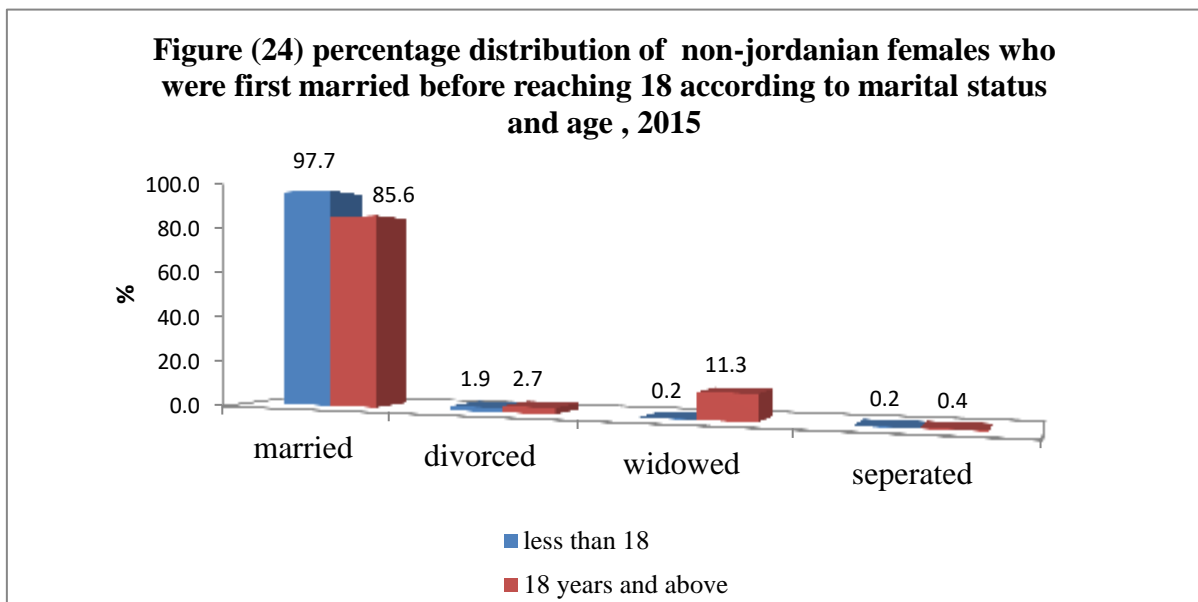
Nationality has no effect (Jordanian and non-Jordanian) on the phenomenon of early marriage for females who are currently 18 years of age or older according to the educational level. In Figure 22, one out of every four females (Jordanians or non-Jordanians) who are early married can not read and write, and more than two thirds of Jordanian and non-Jordanian females who married early have their educational levels considered inferior (preparatory and less), while the percentage of females with higher than secondary education did not exceed 2% among Jordanian and non-Jordanian women who married early.



When considering the marital status of Jordanian females who marry early, figure 23 shows that the vast majority of Jordanian females who marry early and their current age is less than 18 are currently married, and this rate decreases to 79.6% among Jordanian females who are older than 18 years. there was a fundamental difference between widowed Jordanian females who were married early, the rate of Jordanian widows aged over 18 is 17.6% compared to 0.2% of those under 18 years of age. It is remarkable that the percentage of divorced women who were married early has decreased as it did not exceed 3% for both age groups.

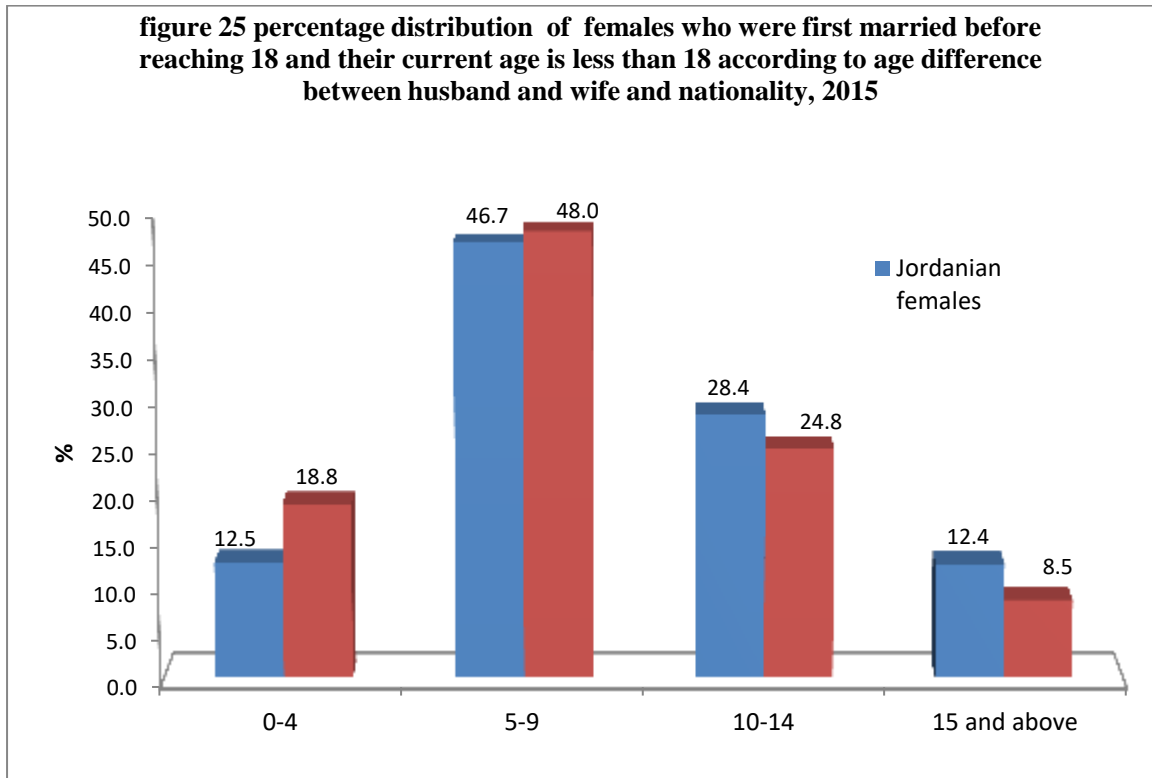


The data in Figure 24 also showed a similar pattern of early marriage at non-Jordanian women according to marital status.



The results showed a slight difference in the rates of Jordanian and non-Jordanian females who marry early and their current age is less than 18 years according to the difference between the husband's and wife's age, Figure 25 shows that the higher the age difference between a husband and a wife, the lower the percentage of females in Jordan who were first married before the age of 18 and their current age is less than 18 years, the highest percentage of women married early was between 5 and 9

years old, with 46.7% for Jordanians and 48% for non-Jordanians, The percentage of females who were married early had a difference in age between husband and wife 10-14 years, with a rate of 28.4% for Jordanian females and 24.8% for non-Jordanian females. It should be noted that the results showed that the lowest percentage of females who were first married before the age of 18 years and their current age is less than 18 years, and the age difference between them and their husband was 15 years and over.



In addition to the fact that the early marriage phenomenon in Jordan is decreasing, especially among Jordanians, it is still present in Jordan even if it is relatively few, It refers to the existence of young females who are at risk because of health problems and the denial of access to health, education, economic and recreational resources to enable them to live in dignity, freedom and equality.