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# Home Quarantine and its Socio-economic Impact on the Jordanian Society during Covid-19

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**Abstract:** The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense suffering in several aspects of human life worldwide. The present study investigates the potential social and economic impacts of Covid-19 on Jordanian society during home quarantine. An online survey was distributed electronically to a sample of (1115) members of the Jordanian society. In the forty-questions, we attempted to examine the impact of the quarantine on the people on the socio-economic level using a 5-point Likert scale. The paper came out with the following findings. First, the members of the Jordanian society are affected more economically than socially; however, Jordanian women are found to be more affected on the social and economic levels. Second, people working in the private sector, daily workers, business owners, retirees and the unemployed are more adversely affected economically than those working in the governmental (public) sector. We offer a set of recommendations, foremost of which is to cease the closure of childcare centres (nurseries and kindergartens) to safeguard women's economic participation and augment its ratio and to safeguard the limited gains of women. In addition, to support the workers in the private sector and daily workers during the pandemic. It recommended conducting further similar studies related to the period of recovery from the spread of the virus to define the requirements for overcoming the repercussions of the pandemic.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Economic Impact, Home Quarantine, Social Impact, the Jordanian society. [1]

## 1 Introduction

By the end of 2019, coronavirus enshrouded the human health condition, and the challenge facing the World Health Organization was to declare it a global pandemic. Thus, since the inception of unveiling the behavior of this virus in attacking humans and endangering their health and life, the necessary measures to confront the virus and limit its spread were announced. It was a challenge for governments all over the world to choose between the option of protecting human health by imposing physical distancing or the option of safeguarding the economic aspects and avoiding the financial, social, and other burdens, which impelled the governments at the beginning to impose closures which encompassed all the industrial, economic, financial and human sectors.

The world felt a sense of helplessness until a vaccine or cure that is effective would be discovered, whereby the whole world was inclined unanimously to try to control the spread of infection through means relying on the behavioral changes of individuals and communities while

urging them to adopt particular behaviors in the quest to limit the spread of the contagion and reduce the burdens stemming from it on the various segments of society.

In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the imperative for societies to be aware of the response strategies to face the pandemic and partake in them, thereby enabling the healthcare systems to alleviate the repercussions of the pandemic. Thus, Habersaat and her research team consisting of 35 researchers (Habersaat et al., 2020)<sup>1</sup> mentioned that the rapid global spread of the Coronavirus drove the governments of the countries of the world to implement policies and measures to manage the confrontation of its transmission. Most of those measures were proven effective, but are of a high social, psychological, and economic cost, and those strategies are modified following the developments associated with the spread of the pandemic. The research team provided ten considerations supporting the urgent need for following this measure, including balancing between the rights of individuals and the social good, giving priority to those who are more vulnerable, offering special support to those

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working in the domain of healthcare, building confidence in conjunction with society while reinforcing and maintaining it, using a clear and positive language, marshaling existing social customs and promoting new health standards, enhancing flexibility and internal capacities, anticipating and managing erroneous information, and dealing with the media.

The favored option announced by the World Health Organization and adopted by most of governments, including the Jordanian government, was safeguarding human health. The Jordanian government imposed the policy of social distancing on all the educational, economic, and social sectors, alongside the imposition of total curfew for particular periods of time, general lockdown at the level of the country, the announcement of the defense law, and matters were managed by the National Center for Crisis Management through a team specialized in crisis management and the management of health pandemics. The army was deployed at the entrances of cities and Jordanian towns and streets to safeguard domestic security and to ensure compliance with the defense orders issued by the Jordanian government. That period spanned mid-March 2020 until the beginning of June 2020.

It is a known fact that the economic and social scene of the population of Jordan faced difficulties and challenges even before the advent of the pandemic, represented by the budget deficit and the rise of the rates of unemployment. Given that Jordan has one of the youngest populations in the world, a large number of the population do not work, besides many of the workers work in the private sector, and some do not possess social benefits. Hence, it was expected for the closure measures and the suspension of economic activities to lead to economic consequences at the level of individuals and the country's level. A survey conducted by the Center of Strategic Studies (2020)<sup>2</sup> on the economic and social effects revealed that most of Jordanians (80%) believe that the private sector was negatively affected as a consequence of the closures, particularly those of limited income.

The magnitude of health threats and the suspension of most societal interests due to the imposition of closures has negatively affected the members of society and various sectors. The concern about grave repercussions has threatened the sources of private finance, and the various life interests. In the report by Kebede et al. (2020)<sup>3</sup>, the analysis of data obtained from two independent surveys conducted by both the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the effects of the pandemic on the Arab labor markets, which found as regards the case of Jordan that 42% of the institutions will be able to pay the salaries of their employees for a period not more than one month; and that 46% of institutions faced financial difficulties prior to the closure measures.

At the social level, the pandemic generated new behaviors, such as adopting of the measures of social distancing,

which is a concept that is not familiar to the Jordanian society characterized by familial and social cohesion. Needless to mention the intensification of electronic transactions and the application of strict measures through personal protection methods such as sterilization. In addition, there was a sudden shift to online (distance) teaching despite the absence of the needed infrastructure in all the regions of the country, which raised concern among parents regarding the future of education of their offspring. There was also suspension of receiving ordinary patients at hospitals and healthcare centers and the receipt of medications by patients with chronic illnesses.

The country adopted numerous measures to alleviate the adverse effects on members of the Jordanian society stemming from the pandemic at the social and economic levels. The government launched economic protection programs for unemployed citizens, established electronic platforms to offer emergency assistance by the Social Security Fund which was reinforced by registration in the social security umbrella, which opened the path for offering national donations. Likewise the government created electronic platforms to adopt the system of online learning, and other electronic platforms to provide further governmental services.

### Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is manifested in two aspects: Theoretical significance: the theoretical importance of the present study arises from its attempt to reveal the impact of quarantine due to the coronavirus on Jordanian society, based on the theoretical framework of previous studies, in addition to the volume of knowledge on this subject, and so that the anticipated findings become a springboard for further studies to foster a comprehensive view in this field.

Applied Significance: The applied significance of the present study lies in shedding light on the Jordanian society and the extent of its being affected by the quarantine as a result of the pandemic, whereby enabling the decision-makers to lay down visions for the plans of recovery to lessen the impact of the negative consequences on the society, and to take responsible initiatives to limit the burdens of this possible impact. This will also help the Jordanian government as well as other countries with similar situations to deal with the mutations of the virus in the near future.

### Research Questions

The present study seeks to examine the social and economic impact of Covid-19 on the members of the Jordanian society during quarantine through answering the following questions:

1. What are the social effects of the quarantine due to the pandemic outbreak on members of the Jordanian society?
2. Did the quarantine affect the members of the Jordanian society on the economic/ societal level?
3. Are there statistically significant differences in the estimates of the sample of the social and economic impact

of Covid-19 on the Jordanian society during quarantine according to the study variables (i.e. social status, educational level, gender, age, place of residence, work sector, family income, chronic illnesses, and the existence of first-degree relatives who work during the lockdown)?

### Theoretical Background and Previous Studies

Some experts emphasize that the economic impact, and its social consequences due to the pandemic, is considered to be among the most severe global crises after the financial crisis during the years 2008-2009, where the health analyses which were conducted by several bodies stated that the countries in the shadow of the Corona crisis face three scenarios which could be adopted to face the pandemic: the gradual containment, the severe pandemic, or the global emergency. Until this study was conducted, the first two scenarios were excluded, and the coronavirus has mutated.

The pandemic has influenced human behavior globally, as Staszkiwicz, Chomiak-Orsa & Staszkiwicz (2020)<sup>4</sup> described it. This influence is attributed to the drastic impact of the pandemic on health, given the intensity and rapidity of contagion, and this was a source of great pressure facing health, particularly in the period preceding the presentation of the vaccine. Societies are in the face of a choice between exposure to death and economic recession and its consequences, as it represents the gravest threat to economic, social, and technological conditions facing the world since World War II, given its spread and effect on global supply chains.

According to a report by UN DESA (2021)<sup>5</sup>, the Covid-19 pandemic has taken millions of lives, destroyed the progress of development that took years to achieve, and intensified gender inequality. The massive impact of the pandemic on the economy made the task of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) difficult. As for its impact on gender, a UN Women report by GIHA WG (2020)<sup>6</sup> addressed the impacts of Covid-19 on women's economic empowerment. Just as noted for the Ebola outbreak, such crises cause a serious threat, especially to the participation of women in economic activities, especially in private sectors. Such crises can also increase gender gaps in every aspect of life.

Among the most prominent measures in controlling the spread of the virus was imposing home quarantine. In this context, De Witte (2020)<sup>7</sup> stated that the director of the Stanford Social Neuroscience Laboratory, Zaki, stressed the importance of maintaining social communication despite physical distance. It was explained that what was intended by social distancing is to limit physical communication only as a vital matter to slow down the spread of the virus. Zaki emphasized in his latest work entitled "The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World" that social distancing tears apart society could be the best opportunity to stay together during the

period of the spread of the virus, and it also urges people on how to offer empathy and how they can learn it more effectively.

De Witte (2020)<sup>8</sup> emphasizes that distancing conflicts with the individual's basic nature as a social being, particularly in difficult times, and when he passes through emotional and psychological crises. When people feel a desire for recovery, they need to communicate with others in order to lessen their response to pressure. Being alone could also cause diminished immunity, heart diseases and cardiovascular diseases. She suggests people make use of quarantine to enjoy staying with the children and family and for societies to remain in social communication even when they apply physical distancing to avoid tearing the social fabric. She advises communicating through the internet in times of physical isolation such as Zoom and FaceTime applications. It is important to recognize the fact that the decision of physical distancing is a good decision to protect the most vulnerable members of society, such as the elderly and those who suffer from chronic illnesses.

On the other hand, the findings of a study by Alamrawi & Mrabit (2020)<sup>9</sup> on social distancing imposed by the Corona pandemic show domestic violence in Algerian society. The study revealed that when family members stay at home for prolonged periods of time, this results in misunderstanding and weakens communication. Instead of showing empathy, undesirable behaviors were noticed, particularly towards women, such as psychological neglect and hostile actions against women, and moral and physical violence against them.

A number of studies have stated that the measures for preventing of the spread of the virus have altered all aspects of life. In addition to the imposition of self-isolation, Saldana (2020)<sup>10</sup> has stated that the economic impact for individuals living in poverty is the most affected by economic recession resulting from the pandemic. The differences which originally existed in society are accentuated in the long term, in terms of loss of jobs, gaps in the ability to receive education, and increased pressure on mental health. Moreover, she advocates assuring justice in education to address long-term inequalities; and guarantee access to healthcare, jobs, nutrition, housing, and digital tools. Those differences render persons of low income more vulnerable to the pandemic and its economic and educational consequences.

As for education, a UNESCO report (2020)<sup>11</sup> entitled "Adverse Consequences of School Closures" expresses concern over the intense impact on youths who are the most vulnerable and marginalized and on their families; this is attributed mainly to the existing inequalities within the educational system. Among other factors, gaps in child care as a result of the working parents leaving their children alone, or to the possibility of parents leaving their

jobs or being absent in order to take care of their children upon schools closure, which would lead to their loss of a part of their income, and the rise in dropout rates, and also the negative effect on the economic productivity of the country, and to the spread of the effects of social isolation as a result of the closure of schools due to their loss of social communication necessary for learning and development.

Alon et al. (2020)<sup>12</sup>, a group of researchers of the National Bureau of Economic Research, state that the economic recession significantly affected gender equality. Due to social distancing, the number of employees decreased, which mainly affected working mothers because the closure of schools and daycares intensified the need for working mothers to take care of their children. Thus, this contributed negatively to the participation of women in the job market.

Anauati (2020)<sup>13</sup>, the expert in policy assessment in the UNDP, also states that the negative impact of covid on working women could be substantial in two fields: firstly, on the service jobs with high employment of females, such as restaurants and hotels, and secondly on tasks difficult to perform at a distance, such as the need of families to care for their children by themselves. As a consequence of the closure decisions, women working in schools and daycare centers were also affected. Needless to mention, parents would not choose to ask for the help of grandparents since they are considered vulnerable to the virus. They could not also ask for the help of others due to social distancing. It is also expected for single women to go through a difficult economic situation in most cases.

Also, Burki (2020)<sup>14</sup> states that the lockdown measures and the closure of schools could entail long-term negative consequences and affect women and girls differently; this may be because sometimes women earn less money than men, their level of saving is less, and they occupy less secure jobs. In addition, most women in developing regions work in the informal sector and have lesser access to social protection, particularly among women supporting families independently. These factors render their ability to absorb economic shocks less than men.

## 2 Materials and Methods

The study investigates the possible socio-economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on society during quarantine. For this purpose, an online questionnaire was designed and distributed randomly via social media. Since the study was conducted during the quarantine period, no face-to-face interaction occurred, and no hard copies were distributed.

### Study sample

The size of the population of the Jordanian society at the time of collecting the data was (10.7) million people, according to the estimates of the Jordanian Department of Statistics (2020)<sup>15</sup>, while the study sample amounted to (1115) participants from the country, covering the northern, central, and the Southern regions of Jordan. The field study was implemented during May and June of

2020, during the application of home quarantine due to the spread of the Corona virus.

### Tools of the study

A questionnaire was distributed electronically using the Google survey form due to home quarantine. The questionnaire consists of two main parts: the first includes biographical data of the participants, while the second part includes varied questions aiming to investigate the impact of lockdown due to Covid-19 from social and economic aspects on the Jordanian society.

**Table 1:** shows the characteristics of the participants.

Variables	Categories	Freq uency	Perce ntage
Gender	Male	334	30.0
	Female	781	70.0
Age	< 40 Years	565	50.7
	41-60 Years	472	42.3
	> 60 Years	78	7.0
Marital Status	Married	668	59.9
	Unmarried (Single + Divorced + Widow)	447	40.1
Educational level	Intermediate diploma or less	165	14.8
	Bachelor	580	52.0
	Postgraduate	370	33.2
Place of residence	North Region	288	25.8
	Central Region	783	70.2
	South Region	44	3.9
Employment	In the public sector	306	27.4
	In the private sector, self-employed and day laborers	369	33.1
	Retired and unemployed	440	39.5
Family monthly income	=< 1500 JOD	776	69.6
	1501-2500 JOD	170	15.2
	> 2501 JOD	169	15.2
relatives working during the lockdown	Yes	623	55.9
	No	492	44.1
I suffer from chronic diseases	Yes	238	21.3
	No	877	78.7
	<b>Total</b>	1115	100.0



**Table 2:** Correlation Coefficient between the paragraph and the Total Score for Scale.

Statements of the field of social impact				Statements Paragraphs of the field of economic impact					
statement No.	Correlation Coefficient	statement No.	Correlation Coefficient	statement No.	Correlation Coefficient	statement No.	Correlation Coefficient	statement No.	Correlation Coefficient
1	0.85**	10	0.71**	1	0.42*	9	0.73**	16	0.86**
2	0.66**	11	0.65**	2	0.60**	10	0.54**	17	0.66**
3	0.68**	12	0.63**	3	0.46**	11	0.60**	18	0.85**
4	0.70**	13	0.46*	4	0.64**	12	0.46**	19	0.82**
5	0.75**	14	0.63**	5	0.60**	13	0.60**	20	0.60**
6	0.63**	15	0.76**	6	0.85**	14	0.85**	21	0.69**
7	0.70**	16	0.48**	7	0.66**	15	0.85**	22	0.82**
8	0.65**	17	0.042*	8	0.59**				
9	0.68**	18	0.52**						

\*Statistically significant at (0.05) level.

\*\*Statistically significant at (0.01) level.

**Instrument Validity:** Construct Validity (Content Validity): To derive the Instrument Validity, the correlation coefficient of the statements was derived, with the Total Score for Scale for sampling survey, consisting of (30) individuals, and the correlation coefficients of the statements with the total score of the scale ranged between (0.42-0.86) as shown in Table (2).

The table shows that all the correlation coefficients were of acceptable degrees and statistically significant, and hence none of the statements were eliminated.

**Instrument Reliability:**

To ascertain the stability of the study tool, ascertainment was conducted through testing-retesting by applying the measure, and it was re-applied after two weeks to a group outside of the study sample consisting of (30) individuals. Thence the Pearson Correlation was calculated between estimates of each of the social impact and the societal economic impact successively in the two times if it amounted to (0.92) and (0.90). Moreover, the reliability coefficient was calculated through internal consistency in accordance with Cronbach's alpha formula, the social impact amounted to (0.90) and the societal economic impact (0.88), and these values were considered appropriate for purposes of this study.

**The Corrective Statistical Standard**

The 5-Point Likert scale was adopted to correct the study instruments by giving each of its paragraphs one level from its five levels (I strongly agree, I agree, I am neutral, I disagree, I strongly disagree). They numerically represent (1,2,3,4,5) successively, and for analysis purposes, and to test the influence of the arithmetic means for the sample estimates the following measure was adopted: High impact: (3.68-5.00), medium: (2.34-3.67), low: (1.00-2.33).

**Methods of Statistical Processing:**

- The data was statistically analyzed using SPSS:

Descriptive statistics to present the characteristics of the sample and describe the responses using percentages, and measuring the frequency distributions for the characteristics of the sample.

- Arithmetic means, standard deviations, and T-test to reveal the significant differences between the means of two samples. The Scheffé Test for the variables of the three groups, and also the Multivariate Analysis test was utilized to examine the statistical significance of each independent variable with the dependent variable, and also the level of statistical significance was adopted for the statistical significance ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

**3 Results and Discussion**

This chapter presents the principal findings reached based on statistical analyses, aiming to reveal the social, economic, and societal impact of Covid-19 on the Jordanian society during household quarantine based on the sample's response to the study questions. To investigate the impact, the questions of the study will be discussed based on the participants' responses to the statements, each field separately.

**1-The results of the first question: "What are the social effects of the quarantine due to the pandemic outbreak on members of the Jordanian society?"**

To respond to this question, the arithmetic means and standard deviations for the degree of the social impact on the Jordanian society during the home quarantine due to Covid-19 were derived. Table (3) shows that the arithmetic mean for the level of social impact came at a median degree of (3.45), and standard deviation (0.47), and that the arithmetic means for the statements ranged between (1.93-4.52), where the paragraph number (3) stating "My reflecting on the greatness of the Creator and the weakness of the human" came first (4.52), and paragraph number (9) which states "It increased my use of social media" came in the second place (4.23), followed by "I became more empathetic towards my family members" (4.03). The statements are arranged in descending order.

This confirms the importance of social communication and that the Jordanian society recognized that what is intended by the measures of quarantine is physical distancing. The Jordanian society is considered a conservative and

religious one, and this is obvious as the results show how religiously committed and socially cohesive it is, as they thought of the pandemic as a situation that reminds humans of God, and they still feel it is important to stay in contact with their close relatives. In addition, the Jordanian society is a tribal society connected by kinship ties, the members of the society remained in contact with each other despite the physical distance. This goes hand in hand with what Zaki (2020) and De Witte (2020)<sup>16</sup> emphasized to avoid the negative aspects of social distancing.

Statement (18) stating “It made me exposed to forms of domestic violence” came in the last position (1.93), and this could indicate that the condition of familial empathy was prevalent at the start of lockdown in Jordan, unlike the Algerian society, for instance, which showed domestic violence at the start of the lockdown as stated by Alamrawi & Mrabit (2020)<sup>17</sup>.

**Table 3:** Arithmetic means and standard deviations for the items of social impact arranged in descending order:

Rank	No.	Paragraph	Mean	SD.	Level
1	3	It made me think more of the greatness of God and the weakness of humans	4.52	0.79	High
2	9	It increased my use of social media	4.23	0.87	High
3	1	It increased my empathy with my family members	4.03	0.88	High
4	5	It brought me closer to the members of my family and provided an atmosphere full of warmth	3.97	0.94	High
5	15	It increased my sense of social solidarity	3.81	0.91	High
6	11	It encouraged me to participate in household work	3.80	1.04	High
7	8	It increased my communication with members of my family and friends (even if at a distance)	3.72	1.00	High
8	4	It distanced me from some bad habits	3.71	1.07	High
9	2	It enabled me to accomplish some accumulated tasks	3.65	1.10	median
10	14	It changed some of	3.54	1.00	median

Rank	No.	Paragraph	Mean	SD.	Level
		my habits			
11	10	It encouraged me to exchange roles in carrying out tasks	3.53	0.99	median
12	7	It gave me a lot of free time	3.49	1.25	median
13	16	It gave me a sense of social isolation	3.27	1.24	median
14	12	It gave me the opportunity to practice my hobbies	3.18	1.16	median
15	13	It distanced me from my elderly parents	3.05	1.41	median
16	6	It increased my family differences	2.56	1.09	median
17	17	It made me incline to violence in dealing with my family	2.14	1.01	median
18	18	It exposed me to forms of family violence	1.93	0.92	median
		Social impact	3.45	0.47	median

## 2-The results of the second question: “Did the quarantine affect the members of the Jordanian society on the economic/ societal level?”

Table (4) shows that the means for the overall economic impact amounted to (3.89), which is a high rate, while the arithmetic means for the statements ranged (2.67 - 4.57). Statement 13 “The decision for closure of land, maritime and air borders was sound”, held the first position (4.57), and statement 22 “I take pride in the way Jordan has dealt with the pandemic”, came in the second position (4.48), while statement number 6 “I have become threatened by loss of job” came in the last position (2.67). The statements are arranged in descending order.

This is attributed to the fact that the sample estimates for economic impact were based on greater caution than their estimates for the impact of societal repercussions; this is because the Jordanian society already suffered from economic pressures prior to the pandemic. In addition, at the beginning of the pandemic (the period of gathering the data), the Jordanian government adopted decisions and measures helping those negatively affected to overcome this crisis, including deferring payment of bank installments, supporting damaged sectors, offering support to day laborers, and other measures.

To support the sample for border closure measures, this is attributable to their knowledge of the source of the spread of the virus and that keeping the borders open would contribute to the entry of more cases and hence the spread of the virus domestically. Furthermore, the measures adopted by the Jordanian Government at that time (Al-Razzaz’s government) to limit the spread of the virus at the

beginning was pioneering among states notwithstanding its limited resources and economic capabilities, such as closing the border, isolating in quarantine the arrivals at the expense of the government in the hotels of the Dead Sea, sending airplanes to transport Jordanian students to the areas in which there were confirmed cases. In addition, the government announced a series of measures to limit the effects of lockdown due to the pandemic, particularly in the data collection period, to maintain the level of employment and economic participation.

**3-Results of the third question: “Are there statistically significant differences in the estimates of the sample of the social and economic impact of Covid-19 on the Jordanian society during quarantine according to the study variables (i.e. social status, educational level, gender, age, place of residence, work sector, family income, chronic illnesses, and the existence of first-degree relatives who work during the lockdown)?”**

To respond to this question, the arithmetic means and standard deviations were derived for the degree of influence of the social and economic impact of Covid-19 on the Jordanian society during quarantine based on the variables: gender, educational level, social status, age, place of residence, level of family income, employment, having relatives working during lockdown, having a chronic illness.

**First: The correlation between the social impact and the variables**

Table (5) shows the correlation between the social impact and the study variables (i.e., gender, educational level, social status, age, place of residence, family income level, employment, having relatives working during the lockdown, having a chronic illness).

**Table 4:** Arithmetic means and standard deviations for the economic / societal impact.

Rank	No.	Paragraph	Mean	SD	Level
1	13	The decision to close the land, maritime and air borders was sound	4.57	0.80	High
2	22	I take pride in the way Jordan dealt with the pandemic	4.48	0.79	High
3	4	My reliance on home food increased	4.42	0.80	High
4	14	The decision to suspend schools and universities and relying on online education was sound	4.39	0.97	High
5	16	I am satisfied with the government’s performance to contain the corona virus	4.35	0.89	High
6	15	The suspension of governmental institutions and the private sector was a sound measure	4.34	0.91	High
7	19	My confidence in governmental measures related to health aspects increased	4.31	0.85	High
8	17	I take pride in the governmental assistance to those affected by the pandemic	4.26	0.94	High
9	18	My feeling of the necessity of helping others materially increased	4.25	0.81	High
10	9	My consumption of cleaning materials, disinfectants and preventive requisites increased	4.24	0.89	High
11	5	The prices of food rose	3.93	0.94	High
12	8	My consumption of food increased	3.79	1.06	High
13	11	The priorities of allocating the salary changed	3.77	1.00	High
14	7	I became more circumspect in managing my financial affairs	3.76	0.98	High
15	3	My purchase was confined to the basic needs	3.70	1.09	High
16	20	My confidence in government measures in the economic domain increased	3.64	1.17	median
17	1	The level of my monthly income decreased	3.61	1.24	median
18	21	My confidence in government measures related to education increased	3.61	1.20	median
19	2	My level of spending dropped	3.38	1.23	median
20	10	My consumption of food supplements increased (vitamins)	3.26	1.16	median
21	12	My monthly saving increased	2.80	1.19	median
22	6	I became at risk of losing my job	2.67	1.18	median
		Economic / societal impact	3.89	0.46	High



Table (5) shows apparent variance in the arithmetic means and standard deviations for the social impact based on the difference of the categories of the variables under study. To elucidate the significance of the statistical differences between arithmetic means the analysis of variance is utilized in table (6).

**Table 5:** Means and standard deviations for social impact based on the variables of the study.

Variables	Categories	No.	mean	SD
Gender	Male	334	3.40	0.486
	Female	781	3.47	0.464
Age	Less than 40 Years	565	3.45	0.441
	41-60 Years	472	3.48	0.501
	Above 60 Years	78	3.30	0.480
Marital Status	Married	668	3.49	0.491
	Unmarried (Single, Divorced, Widow)	447	3.39	0.436
Educational level	Intermediate diploma or less	165	3.55	0.466
	Bachelor Degree	580	3.46	0.456
	Postgraduate	370	3.39	0.490
Place of residence	North Region	288	3.55	0.451
	Central Region	783	3.42	0.474
	South Region	44	3.44	0.486
employment	Public Sector	306	3.48	0.491
	The private sector, self-employment and day laborers	369	3.45	0.481
	Retired and unemployed	440	3.44	0.450
family monthly income	1500 JOD and Less	776	3.48	0.455
	1501-2500 JOD	170	3.32	0.539
	Above 2501 JOD	169	3.46	0.451
having relatives working during the lockdown	Yes	623	3.48	0.472
	No	492	3.42	0.470
having chronic diseases	Yes	238	3.43	0.479
	No	877	3.46	0.470

**Table 6:** Analysis of Variance as the impact of the variables on social impact of lockdown.

Var.	Σ of Squares	df.	Mean square	F	Sig.
Gender	1.148	1	1.148	5.433	0.02
Age	0.442	2	0.221	1.047	0.35
Marital Status	2.917	1	2.917	13.805	0.00
Educational level	1.737	2	0.868	4.110	0.017
Place of residence	2.610	2	1.305	6.175	0.002
Employment	0.425	2	0.212	1.005	0.366
Family monthly income	2.715	2	1.358	6.425	0.002
Having relatives who work during the lockdown	0.733	1	0.733	3.471	0.063
Having a chronic disease	0.060	1	0.060	0.284	0.594
Error	232.42	1100	0.211		
Total	247.75	1114			

There are statistically significant differences based on gender, where the differences were in favor of females (0.020). This is attributed to the social repercussions of lockdown on women who mainly were more affected than men, given the responsibilities of family care shouldered by women. In addition to the typical roles assigned to women, it increased due to home quarantine and the lockdown policies and following up on the virtual education of children as a result of the shift into online teaching. This goes hand in hand with (Alon, et al. 2020<sup>18</sup>; Burki, 2020<sup>19</sup> and Anauati, 2020<sup>20</sup>), and also with what was stated in the United Nations Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women (Oertelt-Prigione, 2020)<sup>21</sup>, namely that women are the category most negatively affected by the pandemic.

The presence of statistically significant differences due to the impact of social status, where the value of F amounted to (13.805) and with a statistical significance amounting to (0.0) in favor of the married people. This could be attributed to their increased responsibilities and their need to stay at home to take care of their children, and the impossibility of assigning the responsibility of caring for their children to the grandparents due to compliance with the policy of physical distancing, given the vulnerability of the elderly to infection. There was also always a fear of transmitting the disease to them, especially in case they suffer from some chronic illnesses and need medicines and direct supervision. This goes with the recommendations of Anauati (2020)<sup>22</sup>, who explained that home quarantine and lockdown imposed additional pressure on married couples in general and working mothers in particular.

The educational level (0.017) has played a key role in the social impact. Place of residence also played a role in the social impact at the beginning of the coronavirus in Jordan (0.002). The range of the family income per month also significantly correlates with the social impact (0.002). In order to exposit the statistically significant

differences of these variables between the arithmetic Scheffé Test comparisons were utilized as shown in Table 7, 8, 9, respectively.

**Table 7:** Post Hoc Comparisons by Scheffe' Test Regarding the impact of the educational level on social influence.

	Mean	Intermediate Diploma and below	Bachelor Degree	Graduate Studies
Intermediate diploma or less	3.55			
Bachelor Degree	3.46	.09		
Graduate Studies	3.39	.16*	.07	

\* Significance level of ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

It is evident from Table (7) that there are statistically significant differences ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) between the intermediate diploma level and below and the higher studies level, and the differences came in favor of the intermediate diploma and below. These differences are attributed to the fact that this society's category mostly works in the services sectors that are managed through the private sector and exposed to a suspension of work, which cannot be managed at a distance. This could be reflected in their social situation to a degree greater than other participants and they are being exposed to the possibility of dismissal from work due to lockdown.

**Table 8:** Post Hoc Comparisons by Scheffe' Test For the influence of place of residence on social impact

	Arithmetic mean	North Region	Central Region	South Region
North Region	3.55			
Central Region	3.42	.13*		
South Region	3.44	.11	-.02	

\* Significance level of ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

It is evident from Table (8) that the presence of statistically significant differences ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) came in favor of the northern region. These differences are attributed to the fact that the first cases appeared in Irbid (northern region) due to a wedding with a person coming from abroad Jordan who subsequently manifested symptoms of infection, which necessitated a rapid governmental measure to isolate Irbid.

**Table 9:** Post Hoc Comparisons by Scheffe' Test regarding the social impact of the monthly family income level

Imcom	Mean	1500 JOD and Less	1501-2500 JOD	Above 2501 JOD
1500 JOD and Less	3.48			
1501-2500 JOD	3.32	.16*		
Above 2501 JOD	3.46	.02	.15*	

\* Significance level of ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

Table (9) shows the two groups with a monthly income 1500 JD and less, and the category 2501 JD and above are negatively affected more than the group with the income range 1501-2500 JD. This result could be attributed to the fact that the members

of the middle-income category are mostly more capable of facing crises and adapting to them than the other lower and higher categories. It is also worth mentioning that those of high income were subject to sizable deductions from

their salaries during this pandemic which could force them to adapt to a new, unfamiliar situation, in addition to the possibility of having investment interests affected by the policies of lockdown and the suspension of productive activity alongside the continuance of their financial obligations towards their associates, as well as their inability to travel, and hence the occurrence of changes in their pattern of life.

As regards those of lower-income (1500 JD and less), this category includes the members of the society of limited income, and are employed by other segments and are concerned about losing their jobs and sources of income, and undoubtedly, they are under great pressure to adapt to emergency conditions and are fearful of what is coming. The results agree with Saldana (2020)<sup>23</sup>, which alluded to the notion that those who live in a weak economic situation are considerably affected by the economic recession and are the more harmed in terms of the economic and educational aspects.

### Second: The correlation between the economic/societal impact and the variables:

Table (10) reflects the correlation between the economic/societal impact and the variables under study (gender, age, social status, educational level, place of residence, family income level, employment, having relatives working during the lockdown, having a chronic illness).

**Table 10:** Arithmetic means and the Standard deviations of the Economic Impact according to the study Variables.

Variable	Categories	No.	Mean	Sd.
Gender	Male	334	3.76	0.521
	Female	781	3.94	0.419
Age	Less than 40 Years	565	3.89	0.452
	41-60 Years	472	3.88	0.466
	Above 60 Years	78	3.89	0.462
Marital Status	Married	668	3.88	0.473
	Unmarried (Single + Divorced + Widow)	447	3.90	0.437
Educational level	Intermediate diploma or less	165	3.98	0.509
	Bachelor Degree	580	3.89	0.435
	Postgraduate	370	3.84	0.466
Place of residence	North Region	288	3.92	0.473
	Central Region	783	3.88	0.456
	South Region	44	3.79	0.403
employment	Public Sector	306	3.75	0.465
	The private sector, self-employed and day laborers	369	3.95	0.426
	Retired and unemployed	440	3.93	0.461
family monthly income	1500 JOD and Less	776	3.89	0.450
	1501-2500 JOD	170	3.86	0.478
	Above 2501 JOD	169	3.88	0.479
having relatives who work during the lockdown period	Yes	623	3.87	0.453
	No	492	3.90	0.465
having chronic diseases	Yes	238	3.88	0.448
	No	877	3.89	0.462

Table (10) shows the apparent variance in the arithmetic means and the standard deviations of the economic impact according to the difference of the categories of the variables under study. To exposit the significance of statistical differences between the arithmetic means, the variance analysis was utilized to reveal the impact of economic consequences on the Jordanian society according to the variables under study, which is evident in Table (11).

**Table 11:** Analysis of the influence of economic impact on the Jordanian Society.

Var.	$\Sigma$ of Square s	DF.	mean square	Value of F	Sig.
Gender	7.090	1	7.090	36.070	0.000
Age	0.306	2	0.153	0.778	0.460
Marital Status	0.116	1	0.116	0.589	0.443
Education level	0.975	2	0.487	2.480	0.084
Place of residence	1.281	2	0.641	3.260	0.039
Employment	7.913	2	3.956	20.128	0.000
Family monthly income	0.043	2	0.021	0.109	0.897
Having relatives who work during the ban period	0.044	1	0.044	0.224	0.636
Having chronic diseases	0.021	1	0.021	0.105	0.746
Error	216.218	1100	0.197		
Total	234.373	1114			

It is shown that gender plays a significant role in the economic impact, where the value of F amounted to (36.070) with a statistical significance amounting to (0.00), and females are the ones negatively affected. This may be due to the gender gap represented in the low rate of economic participation among females, and women who are part of the economic force mostly work in the services sector, which is the most affected by the home quarantine. In addition, many women had to quit their job or choose a part-time job with lower salary - to handle their responsibilities at home (mainly taking care of their children). The pandemic and its repercussions caused negatively affected the participation of women in the job market, particularly the working women- due to the closure of schools and nurseries. This result goes hand in hand with numerous studies such as Alon et al. (2020)<sup>24</sup>, Anauati (2020)<sup>25</sup>, and Burki (2020)<sup>26</sup>.

There is a statistically significant relationship between the place of residence and the economic impact, where the value of F amounted to (3.260), and with a statistical significance amounting to (0.039). To exposit the differences for the place of residence that is statistically significant between the arithmetic means, the Post Hoc Comparisons by Scheffe' Test were utilized as shown in table (12).

**Table 12:** Post Hoc Comparisons by Scheffe' Test on the influence of place of residence on economic impact.

Region	Arithmetic mean	North Region	Central Region	South Region
North Region	3.92			
Central Region	3.88	.04		
South Region	3.79	.13*	.09	

Table (12) reveals that the northern region was affected the most. The authors find that this is due to the imposition of lockdown to Irbid at the start of the pandemic due to the spread of infected cases in the northern region, while the southern region remained devoid of cases at the beginning of the home quarantine.

Moreover, table (11) shows the presence of statistically significant differences ( $\alpha=0.05$ ) due to the variable of employment, where the value of F amounted to (20.128) and with a statistical significance amounting to (0.00), and to exposit the differences for employment that is statistically significant between the arithmetic means the Post Hoc Comparisons by Scheffe' Test were utilized as in table (13).

**Table 13:** Post Hoc Comparisons by Scheffe' Test on the influence of the employment on the economic impact.

	Mean	Public S.	private sector, self-employment, & day laborers	Retired & unemployed
Public Sector	3.75			
The private sector, self-employed and day laborers	3.95	.20*		
Retired and unemployed	3.93	.19*	.01	

\* Significance level of ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

Table (13) shows that workers in the private sector, free Enterprise, and daily workers, retirees and the unemployed are significantly affected by the economic impact compared to the workers in the public sector. This is due to the economic impact on the private sector due to the lockdown policy imposed by the government. These two categories were harmed the most, as some of them were dismissed from work or their wages were reduced (according to the defense law, which permitted the private sector to reduce the salaries), and this also applies to the interruption of the freelance and daily workers, while the incomes and salaries of public sector workers were not very much affected.

### Findings of the Study:

The study of the social and economic impact of Covid-19 on the Jordanian society during quarantine reached a set of findings, most prominently:

- 1- The members of the Jordanian society are affected economically more than socially.
- 2- Jordanian women are more affected at the social and economic levels.
- 3- The northern region was more affected than the other regions socially and economically at the beginning of the pandemic.
- 4- Workers in the private sector, daily workers, business owners, retirees, and the unemployed are more harmed economically than the employees of the governmental sector.
- 5- Members of the society of a lower level of education (holders of the intermediate diploma and less), married individuals, and those of income less than 1500 JD/month, and more than 2500 JD/month, are more affected at the social and economic levels.

### Foremost Recommendations:

- 1- Keep childcare centers open (nurseries and kindergartens) with adherence to safety precautionary health safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus, and support them financially.
- 2- Maintain women's economic participation and increase its ratio, safeguard the limited gains of women and contain the risk of decline in narrowing the gender economic gap.
- 3- Continue to support the workers in the private sector, daily and freelance workers in this period, and those of low and medium-income through auxiliary economic programs.
- 4- Conduct further similar studies in the period of recovery from the spread of the virus to identifying the critical needs to overcome the consequences of the pandemic.

## 4 Acknowledgments

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