

**THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS
INFLUENCE ON YOUTH MARRIAGE
ABSTINENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA**

ALBRAHIM ALJAWHARAH IBRAHIM N

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

2025

**THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS
INFLUENCE ON YOUTH MARRIAGE
ABSTINENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA**

by

ALBRAHIM ALJAWHARAH IBRAHIM N

**Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy**

September 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. All praise Allah for the strengths and blessings in completing this thesis.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my supervisor, Professor Dr Azlinda Azman. Her guidance and support have been invaluable throughout my research journey. She has constantly encouraged and motivated me and helped me to manage the complexity of my dissertation. Professor Azman's extensive practical knowledge has greatly enriched my understanding of how to develop methods and improve my academic writing skills. Her insightful feedback was instrumental in successfully completing my manuscript and dissertation. Her vision, patience and sincerity have deeply inspired my creativity. Without their unwavering support, achieving the goals of this thesis would not have been possible. I feel extremely privileged to have had the opportunity to work and study under her expert guidance.

I lovingly dedicate my work to those who have given me the love of education and knowledge. Thank you for giving me the strength to realise my dreams. To those whom God has blessed with their presence in my life, who have helped and supported me immensely during my academic years: my late mother, my father, my husband and my children. I thank my children from the bottom of my heart for putting me behind schedule, as well as my husband: their love, patience and encouragement supported me, especially when I had to spend a lot of time travelling. My husband has always been my greatest support, my bright candle, my joy. Even if I were to write you words of thanks, I would not do justice to your inestimable value.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my siblings and friends for their love, support, and motivation throughout my study.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
LIST OF APPENDICES	xvii
ABSTRAK	xviii
ABSTRACT	xx
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	3
1.3 Research Questions	5
1.4 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4.1 General Objective.....	6
1.4.2 Specific Objectives.....	6
1.5 Significance of the study	7
1.6 Research Hypotheses.....	9
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 Background of Saudi Society	11
2.3 Saudi Marriage Customs	14
2.3.1 Sermon	14
2.3.2 Reconciliation.....	15
2.3.3 Pony.....	15

2.3.4	Zaffa	15
2.3.5	Wedding Banquet	15
2.3.6	Offering	15
2.4	Divorce Among Saudis	20
2.4.1	Primary Reasons for Divorce	24
2.4.2	Implications of Divorce.....	25
2.5	Marriage Abstinence	28
2.5.1	Marriage Abstinence in Saudi Arabia	28
2.5.2	Marriage Abstinence in the Arab world.....	34
2.5.3	Factors and reasons for abstaining from marriage	38
	(a)2.5.3 Economic Factors	39
	(b)2.5.3 Social Factors.....	46
2.6	Negative Effects of Marriage Abstinence	58
2.6.1	Psychological Effects	58
2.6.2	Social Impacts	59
2.6.3	Economic Impacts	59
2.7	The Role of Personality Traits in Relationships and Marriage	60
2.7.1	Emotional Resilience.....	60
2.7.2	Social Skills.....	60
2.7.3	Openness to Experience	61
2.7.4	Conscientiousness	61
2.8	The Role of Social Work in Promoting Marriage Abstinence	61
2.9	Study Concepts.....	62
2.9.1	Marriage Abstinence	62
2.9.2	Social Changes	63
2.9.3	Economic Changes	64
2.10	Theoretical Framework	64

2.10.1	Functional Constructivist Theory.....	64
2.10.2	Homogeneity Theory.....	69
2.10.3	Value Theory.....	71
2.11	Conceptual Framework	73
CHAPTER 3	METHODOLOGY.....	75
3.1	Introduction	75
3.2	Research Paradigm.....	75
3.3	Research Philosophy	76
3.4	Research Approach	77
3.5	Study Design	77
3.6	Study Area.....	78
3.7	Study Duration	79
3.8	Sampling.....	79
3.8.1	Study Population	79
3.8.2	Sampling Population.....	80
3.8.2(a)	Inclusion Criteria	80
3.8.2(b)	Exclusion Criteria	80
3.8.3	Sampling Frame	80
3.8.4	Sampling Unit	81
3.8.5	Sampling Size.....	81
3.8.6	Sampling Techniques	82
3.9	Data Collection.....	84
3.10	Research Instruments	85
3.10.1	Questionnaires.....	85
3.10.1(a)	Socio-Demographic Questionnaire.....	85
3.10.1(b)	Reasons of Marriage Abstinence.....	86
3.10.1(c)	Personality Traits	86

3.11	Quality Control.....	87
3.11.1	Validity of Questionnaire.....	87
3.11.1(a)	Content Validity.....	87
3.11.1(b)	Face Validity.....	88
3.11.2	Reliability of Questionnaire	88
3.12	Data Analysis	91
3.13	Study Variables	93
3.13.1	Dependent Variable.....	93
3.13.2	Independent Variables.....	93
3.14	Operational Definition.....	93
3.15	Ethical Approval	95
CHAPTER 4	STUDY FINDINGS / RESULTS	96
4.1	Introduction	96
4.2	Response Rate	97
4.3	Data Screening	98
4.3.1	Missing Data	98
4.3.2	Outliers.....	98
4.3.3	Normality Distribution	99
4.3.4	Test of Multicollinearity.....	100
4.4	Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents.....	102
4.5	Prevalence of Marriage Abstinence among Saudis.....	104
4.6	Descriptive Analysis of Social Factors Affect Marriage Abstinence.....	105
4.7	Descriptive Analysis of Economic Affect Marriage Abstinence	108
4.8	Personality Traits of the Participants	110
4.9	Association between Sociodemographic Characteristics and Marriage Abstinence.....	114
4.10	The Correlation between Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence and Personality Traits.....	116

4.11	The Differences between the Social and Economic Factors among the Participants according to the Sociodemographic Characteristics	118
4.12	Assessing Reflective and Formative Measurement Models.....	125
4.12.1	Assessing Reflective Measurement Model	125
4.12.2	Examining of Outer Loading for Items	125
4.12.3	Ascertaining Internal Consistency Reliability.....	127
4.12.3(a)	Reliability (Cronbach's Alpha) and Composite Reliability	127
4.12.4	Constructs Validity.....	128
4.12.4(a)	Convergent Validity and AVE.....	128
4.12.4(b)	Discriminant Validity	130
4.13	Assessing Formative Measurement Model	135
4.13.1	Convergent Validity (Redundancy Analysis)	135
4.13.2	Assessment the Indicator Weights' Statistical Significance	136
4.13.3	Collinearity Test (Variance Inflation Factors -VIF)	138
4.14	Assessment of the Structural Model.....	139
4.14.1	Coefficient of Determination: R^2 value.....	140
4.14.2	Assessment of Effect Size (f^2).....	142
4.14.3	Predictive Relevance (Q^2)	146
4.14.4	Goodness of Fit (GoF) of the Model.....	148
4.14.5	Importance-Performance Map Analysis (IPMA).....	149
4.15	Hypotheses Testing Results	152
4.15.1	Main Direct Hypotheses Results	152
4.15.2	Sub-Hypotheses Results	153
4.15.3	Assessment of the potential mediator of personality traits (Mediating Effect)	155
4.15.4	Assessment the Moderating Effect of Sociodemographic Characteristics	158
4.15.4(a)	The Main Moderation Hypothesis Testing	158

4.15.4(b) The Sub-Hypotheses Moderation Testing	160
4.16 Summary of the Findings	170
4.17 Summary of Chapter	172
CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION	175
5.1 Discussion	175
5.1.1 Introduction	175
5.1.2 Prevalence of Marriage Abstinence	176
5.1.3 Economic and Social Factors Influencing Marriage Abstinence	177
5.1.4 Association between Sociodemographic Characteristics and Marriage Abstinence	178
5.1.5 Correlation between Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence and Personality Traits	180
5.1.6 Potential Mediator of Personality Traits	181
5.1.7 Moderating effect of sociodemographic characteristics.....	184
5.2 Research Implications	185
5.2.1 Theoretical Implications.....	185
5.2.2 Practical Implications	187
5.2.3 Policy Makers Implications.....	189
5.3 Recommendations for Authorities and Agencies	191
5.4 Limitation of The Study and Future Research	194
5.5 Conclusion.....	195
REFERENCES.....	197
APPENDICES	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 2.1 The Graphical Report of Divorce Deeds in various regions of the Saudi Arabia.	22
Table 2.2 The general divorce rate in Saudi Arabia since 2015 to 2020	23
Table 2.3 The marriage rates trend during the 1990, 2000, and 2010 in Saudi Arabia.....	31
Table 2.4 Marriage and divorce rate from 2015-2020	32
Table 2.5 The Rate of Late Marriage in the Arab world During the years 2024-2025 for both genders.	36
Table 3.1 The Internal Consistency Value using Cronbach's alpha of the Questionnaires.....	89
Table 3.2 Results of Test-Retest Reliability Analysis for the Questionnaires ...	90
Table 3.3 Summary of the statistical tests according to each objective.	92
Table 3.4 Operational Definition of Dependent.....	93
Table 3.5 Operational Definition of Independent Variables	94
Table 4.1 Summary of Data Collection and Response Rate	98
Table 4.2 Skewness and Kurtosis for Variables.....	100
Table 4.3 The Tolerance and VIF for Variables	101
Table 4.4 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N=408)	103
Table 4.5 Distribution of Social Factors Affect Marriage Abstinence	106
Table 4.6 Distribution of Economic Factors Affect Marriage Abstinence	109
Table 4.7 Distribution of Personality Traits.....	111
Table 4.8 Association between Sociodemographic Characteristics and Marriage Abstinence	115

Table 4.9	The Correlation between Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence and Personality Traits	117
Table 4.10	Differences in the Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence among the Participants according to the Age Group	118
Table 4.11	Differences in the Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence among the Participants according to the Gender.....	119
Table 4.12	Differences in the Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence among the Participants according to the Education level	120
Table 4.13	Differences in the Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence among the Participants according to the Job (Position)	121
Table 4.14	Differences in the Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence among the Participants according to the Employment..	122
Table 4.15	Differences in the Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence among the Participants according to the Monthly Income.....	123
Table 4.16	Differences in the Social and Economic Factors of Marriage Abstinence among the Participants According to the City	124
Table 4.17	Items loading, Cronbach's alpha, Composite Reliability (CR) and AVE	129
Table 4.18	Discriminant Validity (Fornell and Larcker ,1981) for Latent Variables	132
Table 4.19	Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT)	134
Table 4.20	Outer Weights Significance Testing Results.....	137
Table 4.21	Collinearity Test (VIF).....	139
Table 4.22	Coefficient of determination result R^2	141
Table 4.23	Effect Size of predictive Variables	143
Table 4.24	Construct Cross Validated Redundancy.....	147
Table 4.25	IPMA Results	150

Table 4.26	Summary of Main Direct Hypotheses Results	153
Table 4.27	Summary of Direct Sub-Hypotheses Results.....	154
Table 4.28	Summary of Hypotheses Testing for the Indirect Effect (Mediating Results).....	157
Table 4.29	The Result of Main Moderating Hypothesis Testing.....	159
Table 4.30	Summary of Sub-Hypotheses Testing for the Moderating Effect....	161
Table 4.31	Summary of the Results	171

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 2.1 The prevalence of divorce in various regions of the Saudi Arabia. ...	22
Figure 2.2 The curve of divorce rate in Saudi Arabia since 2015 to 2020.....	23
Figure 2.3 The Rate of Late Marriage in the Arab world During the years 2024-2025 for both Genders	37
Figure 2.4 The Conceptual Framework.....	74
Figure 3.1 Map of Saudi Arabia showing the cities from where study participants were recruited, which included Riyadh, Jeddah, Mecca and Dammam.....	79
Figure 3.2 Sample Size Proportional in four Different Cities	83
Figure 4.1 Prevalence of Marriage Abstinence among Participants	104
Figure 4.2 Reflective and Formative Measurement Model/ Outer loading (Algorithm)	126
Figure 4.3a Measurement Model with (f^2) and (R^2) for Main Variables	144
Figure 4.3b Measurement Model with (f^2) and (R^2) for Sub-variables	144
Figure 4.4 Predictive Relevance (Q^2)	148
Figure 4.5 Importance-Performance Map Analysis (IPMA).....	151
Figure 4.6 Structural Model with Main Direct Hypotheses (Bootstrapping)	153
Figure 4.7 Structural Model with Sub- Direct Hypotheses Results (Bootstrapping)	155
Figure 4.8 The Result of Moderating Effect of Sociodemographic Characteristics	159
Figure 4.9 Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a Moderator Variable (Socialdemographic) between SEF and MA.....	160
Figure 4.10 Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a Moderator Variable (Gender) between SEF and MA.....	162

Figure 4.11	Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a Moderator Variable (Age) between SEF and MA.	163
Figure 4.12	Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a Moderator Variable (Education) between SEF and MA.	164
Figure 4.13	Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a Moderator Variable (Income) between SEF and MA.	165
Figure 4.14	Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a Moderator Variable (Job) between SEF and MA.	166
Figure 4.15	Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a moderator variable (Employment) between SEF and MA	167
Figure 4.16	Simple Slop Plot Analysis including a moderator variable (City) between SEF and MA	168
Figure 4.17	Moderating effect with Sub- Sociodemographic Results (Bootstrapping)	169

LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	Number of PLS or PCA components in the model
a	Number of the PLS or PCA component
b	PLS regression coefficient
b	Number of blocks ($b=1,2,3,\dots,K$)
C	Coarse APM block
C_p	Pooled covariance matrix for the two classes

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AG	Agreeableness
AF	Attitude Factors
AVE	Average Variance Extracted
BFPT	Big Five Personality Test
CR	Composite Reliability
CO	Conscientiousness
GCC	Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf
EC	Economic Factors
EW	Empowering of Women
EM	Expectation Maximization
EX	Extraversion
FF	Family Factors
HTMT	Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio
IPMA	Importance-Performance Map Analysis
IQR	Interquartile Range
ICC	Intraclass Correlation
JS	Job and Salary
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
LC	Living Costs
MA	Marriage Abstinence
MC	Marriage Costs
NE	Neuroticism
OP	Openness
PLS-SEM	Partial Least Squares-Structural Equation Modeling

PF	Personal Factor
PT	Personality Factors
SR	Saudi Riyal
SO	Social Factors
SD	Standard Deviations
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TV	Television
UAE	United Arab Emirates
USM	Universiti Sains Malaysia
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A	Ethical Approval
Appendix B	English Questionnaires
Appendix C	Permission
Appendix D	Content Validity Ratio (CVR) For Items Related to Questionnaire
Appendix E	Experts' Background

FAKTOR SOSIAL DAN EKONOMI MEMPENGARUHI TERHADAP BELIA TIDAK BERKAHWIN DI SAUDI ARABIA

ABSTRAK

Kadar abstinens perkahwinan yang berkaitan dengan faktor sosial dan ekonomi telah menjadi isu sosial yang membimbangkan di Arab Saudi. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenal pasti faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan belia di Arab Saudi memilih untuk tidak berkahwin. Selain itu, kajian ini juga ingin melihat hubungan antara abstinens perkahwinan, faktor sosial dan ekonomi, serta ciri keperibadian di kalangan belia Saudi. Kajian kuantitatif ini dilakukan di empat bandar terbesar di Arab Saudi dengan melibatkan 575 peserta yang dipilih secara rawak. Data dikumpul bermula Mei hingga Ogos 2023 menggunakan soal selidik dalam talian. Analisis data menggunakan perisian SPSS dan PLS. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa kadar abstinens perkahwinan di kalangan belia Saudi adalah 46.8%. Faktor sosial seperti faktor peribadi, sikap, keluarga, dan pemberdayaan wanita menyumbang 57.6% kepada keputusan untuk tidak berkahwin, manakala faktor ekonomi seperti kos hidup, kos perkahwinan dan pekerjaan menyumbang 62.2%. Kajian turut mendapati bahawa umur, jantina, tahap pendidikan, pekerjaan, dan pendapatan bulanan mempunyai hubungan yang signifikan dengan abstinens perkahwinan ($p < 0.05$). Lebih lanjut, faktor sosial dan ekonomi berkait positif dengan ciri keperibadian seperti kebolehan bergaul, keterbukaan, dan kecenderungan emosi, tetapi berkait negatif dengan ciri disiplin. Ciri-ciri keperibadian juga mempunyai peranan sebagai pengantara dalam hubungan antara faktor sosial dan ekonomi dengan abstinens perkahwinan di kalangan individu berumur 25 hingga 35 tahun. Selain itu, karakteristik demografi seperti jantina, pendapatan, pekerjaan, dan bandar juga mempengaruhi hubungan antara

faktor sosial, ekonomi, dan abstinens perkahwinan. Oleh itu, terdapat keperluan akan program pendidikan dan kesedaran masyarakat bagi meneliti isu ini. Menetapkan mas kahwin, menyediakan pekerjaan, menyelesaikan masalah perumahan dan menawarkan pinjaman lembut kesemuanya boleh membantu mengurangkan abstinens untuk berkahwin.

THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCE ON YOUTH MARRIAGE ABSTINENCE IN SAUDI ARABIA

ABSTRACT

The prevalence of marriage abstinence, which is related to social and economic factors, has recently raised social concerns in Saudi Arabia. This study aimed to identify the social and economic factors leading to marriage abstinence among young people in Saudi Arabia. It also aimed to determine the association between marriage abstinence with social and economic factors as well as personality traits among Saudi youth. A cross-sectional quantitative study was conducted in the four largest cities in Saudi Arabia, with 575 participants selected using a simple convenience sampling technique. Data were collected from May 2023 to August 2023 using a self-administered online questionnaire. The data was analysed using SPSS and PLS software. The results of the study revealed that the prevalence of marriage abstinence among young Saudis was 46.8%. The social factors (personal factors, attitude factors, family factors and women empowerment) constituted 57.6%, while economic factors (living costs, marriage costs and job and salary) constituted 62.2% of marriage abstinence reasons. The results also found that there was a significant association between age, gender, education level, job, employment and monthly income ($p < 0.05$) with marriage abstinence. Furthermore, social and economic factors were statistically positively correlated with agreeableness, openness, and neuroticism and negatively correlated with conscientiousness. Furthermore, personality traits had a partially mediating effect on the relationship between social and economic factors in marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35. Moreover, the results revealed that sociodemographic characteristics moderated social and economic factors and marriage

abstinence. Additionally, the findings showed that sub-sociodemographic characteristics such as gender, income, employment and city had a significant moderating effect on the relationship between social and economic factors and marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25-35 years. Hence, education and community awareness programs are needed to mitigate the problem of marriage abstinence. Setting dowries, providing jobs, solving the housing problem, and providing soft loans can further contribute to reducing the problem of marriage abstinence.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Marriage is an important and rewarding social system that is the social foundation of humanity. "Starting a family" is considered the most important event in one's life as it serves as a transition into a new phase that has many roles and patterns. Marriage is one of the oldest and most widespread and acceptable social systems through which individuals completely satisfy their innate needs. It is the formation of a great and new intimate relationship between a man and a woman to create a family that ensures the continuity of a lineage and compliance with social and religious norms (Alhareth et al., 2015; Corno et al., 2020).

The legal age of marriage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) was set in 2009 after journalists called on the country's Human Rights Commission to prohibit the marriage of girls under the age of 18 and to set the legal age of marriage. The following year, the National Human Rights Commission announced that its role was to obtain legislation prohibiting and criminalising the marriage of children under the age of 18 (Al-Shathari, 2010; Al-Hakami & McLaughlin, 2016).

As marriage is important to individuals and communities, delayed marriages negatively affect Saudi society. When youths abstain from or delay marriage, it negatively affects themselves, their families, and society. This seriousness of this issue has increased in recent years due to economic, social, psychological, cultural, and political factors (Al-rabid, 2019; Corno et al., 2020).

Recent demographic studies indicate a significant increase in the proportion of unmarried young adults in Saudi Arabia. Statistics show that over 66% of Saudis aged 15 to 34 are single, with a notable gender disparity—75.6% of males in this age group have never married compared to 56% of females. Among those aged 25 to 34, the unmarried rate is approximately 43% for women and 23% for men (General Authority for Statistics Saudi Arabia, 2023; Al-Shehri, 2024). This trend reflects a broader societal shift in marriage timing. Historically, men typically married between ages 15 and 20, while women married between 14 and 18. However, demographic surveys reveal a steady rise in marriage age, with men now expected to marry between 30 and 35 and women between 25 and 30 (General Authority for Statistics Saudi Arabia, 2023).

This delay in marriage is influenced by multiple factors, including economic, social, and cultural changes. Economic barriers, such as unemployment, high living costs, expensive dowries, and housing challenges, present significant obstacles for young Saudis (Gonalons-Pons & Gangl, 2021; Al-Fahad & Ibrahim, 2022). Additionally, many prioritize completing higher education and securing stable employment before marriage (Al-Fahad & Ibrahim, 2022). Social and cultural shifts also play a role, including changing attitudes toward partner selection, increased educational attainment among women, and evolving family expectations (Al-Shehri, 2024).

The implementation of Saudi Vision 2030 has further accelerated social transformations, particularly in gender roles. Women now have greater access to education, employment, and social freedoms, leading to shifting marital expectations (Vision Document 2030, 2016). However, some men hesitate to pursue educated

women due to fear of rejection, exacerbating marital delays (Sonneveld, 2020; Mansour et al., 2020). Traditional customs, such as high dowries, consanguineous marriages, and familial interference in partner selection, also contribute to declining marriage rates (Rasheed & Akkurt, 2020; Rasheed et al., 2021).

Psychological and personality factors further influence marriage decisions. Individual traits, such as extroversion, conscientiousness, and personal independence, shape how young adults navigate marital pressures (Al-Habib, 2019). Moreover, modern technology and social media have raised expectations for romantic compatibility, leading some to delay marriage until finding a suitable partner (Al-Fahad & Ibrahim, 2022).

These demographic shifts align with broader regional trends, where urbanization, economic development, and higher education have collectively contributed to delayed marriages (Mansour et al., 2020). As Marx (cited in Yusuf, 2016) argued, economic factors fundamentally shape social structures, influencing marriage patterns and family formation. Thus, the rising age of marriage in Saudi Arabia reflects both local socio-economic changes and global demographic transformations.

1.2 Problem Statement

The increasing prevalence of marriage abstinence among young men and women in Saudi Arabia has become a pressing social issue, driven by evolving economic, cultural, and psychological factors. Recent data from the General Authority for Statistics (2023) indicates that over five million Saudis aged 15–65 remain unmarried, with 73.8% of men and 56% of women in this demographic being single. Notably, a significant proportion of unmarried individuals are in older age groups (35–

39 years), suggesting a trend toward delayed or forgone marriage. This shift has profound implications for Saudi society, particularly given its youthful population structure, where two-thirds of citizens are under 35 (General Authority for Statistics, 2023). If this trend continues, it may lead to long-term demographic and socio-economic challenges, including declining fertility rates and shifts in family dynamics.

Existing research on marriage abstinence in Saudi Arabia has primarily focused on traditional barriers such as high dowries, parental interference in spousal selection, and cultural expectations (Al-Anzi, 2009; Al-Mutairi, 2009; Al-Khudairi, 2015). However, these studies have not sufficiently addressed the impact of modern socio-economic transformations, such as women's increased workforce participation, gender mixing in workplaces, and the rising cost of living. Additionally, while some studies have explored psychological factors like fear of marital responsibility (Al-Mashi, 2007; Al-Sanad, 2007), there remains a lack of large-scale empirical research examining how individual personality traits influence marriage decisions. This gap limits policymakers' ability to develop targeted interventions that address both structural and personal barriers to marriage.

One of the most significant yet understudied factors is the role of women's economic independence in shaping marriage trends. With more Saudi women pursuing higher education and careers (General Authority for Statistics, 2023), their expectations of marriage may be shifting, potentially leading to conflicts with traditional gender roles. Furthermore, economic pressures—such as housing affordability, unemployment, and financial instability—have been cited as deterrents to marriage (Kohno et al., 2022), but their relative impact compared to cultural factors remains unclear. Another emerging influence is digital and social media, which may

alter perceptions of marriage by exposing young Saudis to global relationship norms (Talukder et al., 2020; Khan et al., 2024). These modern influences necessitate updated research to assess their role in declining marriage rates.

A critical gap in the existing literature on marriage abstinence in Saudi Arabia is the lack of research examining personality traits as potential mediators in the relationship between socio-economic factors and the decision to delay or avoid marriage. While prior studies have identified economic constraints (e.g., unemployment, high marriage costs) and social shifts (e.g., women's employment, digital influences) as key drivers (Al-Khudairi, 2015; Kohno et al., 2022), the psychological mechanisms through which these factors influence marriage decisions remain underexplored. For instance, traits such as risk aversion, individualism, or traditionalism may mediate how young Saudis perceive financial instability or changing gender roles. A young man with high risk aversion might avoid marriage due to economic uncertainty, whereas another with more egalitarian views may delay marriage to find a partner who aligns with modern values (Howlader et al., 2023). Similarly, women with high independence traits may prioritize careers over early marriage, whereas those with strong familial values may still adhere to traditional timelines (Li, 2023). Empirical research is needed to test whether personality traits amplify or mitigate the effects of socio-economic barriers on marriage abstinence, particularly among Saudis aged 25–35, the primary demographic facing marriage decisions.

1.3 Research Questions

- a. What are the sociodemographic characteristics among Saudis aged 25 to 35?
- b. How prevalent is marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35?

- c. What are the social and economic factors that affect the prevalence of marriage abstinence and personality traits among Saudis aged 25 to 35?
- d. What is the association between marriage abstinence and sociodemographic characteristics among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia?
- e. What is the correlation between social and economic factors of marriage abstinence and personality traits among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia?
- f. What are the differences between the social and economic factors of marriage abstinence according to the sociodemographic characteristics among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia?
- g. Do personality traits mediate the correlation between these social and economic factors and marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35?
- h. Do sociodemographic characteristics moderate the correlation between these social and economic factors and marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

The main objective of this study was to investigate the social and economic factors as well as personality traits across sociodemographic characteristics and their effect on marriage abstinence among Saudis.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

- a. To determine the socio-demographic characteristics (age, gender, monthly income, educational status, employment status, domain of work, marital status) among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia.

- b. To determine the prevalence of marriage abstinence among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia.
- c. To determine the social and economic factors for marriage abstinence and personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, openness, conscientiousness, neuroticism).
- d. To examine the association between marriage abstinence and socio-demographic characteristics among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia.
- e. To examine the correlation between social and economic factors of marriage abstinence and personality traits among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia.
- f. To examine the differences between the social and economic factors of marriage abstinence according to the socio-demographic characteristics among Saudis from 25 to 35 years old in Saudi Arabia.
- g. To analyze the potential mediator of personality traits on the correlation between these social and economic factors and marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35.
- h. To analyze the moderating effect of sociodemographic characteristics on the correlation between these social and economic factors and marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35.

1.5 Significance of the study

Marriage abstinence is a significant societal concern as it deprives individuals of emotional and sexual fulfillment, leading to psychological and social challenges (Alqahtani, 2023). Identifying the causes and contributing factors—whether individual, familial, or community-based—can help mitigate its prevalence,

particularly in the context of cultural and technological shifts in modern society (Al-Sudairi & Alhareth, 2024). This study examines marriage abstinence from the perspectives of young men and women due to its scientific, practical, and strategic importance. The scientific importance of this study lies in its analysis of the root causes of marriage abstinence in Saudi society (Alghamdi, 2023). By understanding how societal members influence this phenomenon, researchers can develop targeted solutions. The study also explores the impact of contemporary social changes—such as women driving, workplace gender mixing, female empowerment, and rising living costs—on marriage trends (Alomran, 2024). Notably, no prior research has investigated the correlation between these societal shifts and marriage abstinence among Saudi youth, making this study a novel contribution to the field. From a practical standpoint, this research identifies key reasons behind marriage abstinence and its negative consequences (Alzahrani, 2023). The findings aim to enhance young people's self-awareness, competency, and overall well-being, thereby reducing marriage reluctance. Policymakers, educators, and social mentors can use these insights to develop preventive programs and awareness campaigns addressing the risks of prolonged marriage avoidance (Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development [MHRSD], 2024).

The strategic importance of this study is its potential to inform local policies and interventions (Albahouth, 2024). It provides evidence-based recommendations, including religious and cultural considerations, to help decision-makers design effective strategies. Additionally, the study highlights the need for further research on tradition- and community-based factors that discourage marriage among Saudi youth (Alqahtani & Alshehri, 2023).

Social workers play a crucial role in mitigating marriage abstinence by applying religious, cultural, and psychosocial knowledge (El-Shazly, 2016; Alharbi, 2024). They assist young individuals in understanding their fears and needs regarding marriage while helping families recognize the societal pressures influencing their children's decisions (Alqurashi, 2023). As a profession rooted in human interaction, social work effectively engages diverse societal segments to improve quality of life (MHRSD, 2024). Social workers employ science- and theory-based approaches to address complex issues like marriage abstinence (Alzamil, 2023). Their interventions are tailored to individual, familial, and community levels, ensuring holistic support (Alotaibi, 2024). Collaboration is central to social work practice. Professionals partner with governmental bodies, NGOs, and community leaders to develop multi-level interventions (El-Shazly, 2016; Al-Sudairi, 2024). By leveraging theoretical frameworks, social workers design targeted strategies—such as counseling, awareness workshops, and policy advocacy—to reduce barriers to marriage. Their efforts align with Saudi Arabia's social welfare goals, emphasizing the importance of family stability in national development (Vision 2030, 2024).

1.6 Research Hypotheses

- H1.Social and economic factors had a significant and positive influence on marriage abstinence.
- H2.Social and economic factors had a significant and positive influence on personality traits.
- H3.Personality traits had a significant and positive influence on marriage abstinence.
- H4.There was a partial mediator of personality traits between the social and economic factors and marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35.

H5. There was a moderating effect of socio-demographic characteristics between the social and economic factors and marriage abstinence among Saudis aged 25 to 35.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

As marriage is an important part of the community and individual life, the issue of delayed marriage has emerged in recent years as a social problem that has been contributed to in the last few years by various factors, including economics, social, psychology, culture and politics. As a result of Saudi society and its negative consequences, young people refrain from getting married or postpone getting married, which damages them, their families and society as a whole (Al-rabid, 2019).

This chapter will discuss Saudi Arabian culture, marriage habits in Saudi society, abstinence from marriage factors, and personality traits as moderation variables. In addition, it will discuss the relationship between social and economic factors and abstaining from marriage and the theory of the study.

2.2 Background of Saudi Society

Saudi society is characterised by many customs, traditions, religious, and social values that contribute to the cohesion and unity of society. As such, they are irreplaceable and extremely important. These values are instilled in children from birth and is a source of pride for them. Most Saudi are keen to adhere to values as they satisfy their needs as well as that of their society (Al-Rabid, 2019).

Social customs are a social style. They can only be formed and practiced in the social life of a society. When interacting with group members, these social customs are primarily in the minds of all Saudis and govern all their actions. Social customs are developed via gradual imitation and by trial and error. Over time, these collective

customs acquire the power of imitation as they are interconnected in the present and carry the wisdom of past experiences as they are handed down from generation to generation (Kulwicki et al., 2021).

Traditions are rules of conduct that arise from collective consent and agreement. They are empowered by the willingness of a society to retain these accumulated judgments and memories and pass them down over generations (Asad, 2012). These traditions are characterised as cultural inheritances from parents and grandparents. Arab customs and traditions are considered laws that all members of society must abide. Furthermore, despite the differences and disagreements, Arab customs and traditions have prevailed since ancient times (Al-Hajri, 2018).

The KSA is characterised by diverse customs and traditions that are based on geographical and environmental factors. Saudi customs and traditions are also heavily influenced by Islamic teachings and Arab customs. These cultural differences are evident in several areas in terms of dialects, architecture, clothing, food, games, dances, chants, and other culture-based styles, all of which have influenced Saudi society. Many of the social values that Saudis adhere to are derived from Islamic values. These Islamic values perfectly compliment the ancient customs and traditions of the region; such as generosity, hospitality, the importance of maintaining family ties, determination, and courage (Al-Shammari, 2017; Al-rabid, 2019).

As Saudi society has developed over the years, their values and traditions have evolved as well. The culture of the KSA is evidenced by the depth of its civilisation, which dates back hundreds of years. This has been confirmed by archaeological evidence as well as the prevailing heritage of the country. The KSA was once the land of many kingdoms and contributed to the development of human civilisation. Due to its

privileged geographical location, it has been an international trade route since ancient times and serves as the cradle of Arabism. In Islam, the KSA is the home of the Two Holy Mosques, a crossroad of cultures, and a bridge for cultural communication (Al-Shammari, 2017).

A field study of the effect of cultural diversity on the behaviours of the employees of the National Water Company in Riyadh aimed to outline the concept of cultural diversity, its most important dimensions, and the correlation between cultural diversity and employee behaviours in terms of cooperation, competition, and individuality. The study involved 300 employees and was conducted using a questionnaire. Employees were found to have a stronger and more general trend towards cooperative and competitive behaviours than individual behaviours. No correlations were discovered between the dimensions of cultural diversity and employee behaviour. Only a weak correlation was discovered between place of birth, gender, years of experience, and job rank and individual behaviour (Al-Shammari, 2017).

A study of Saudi universities used a questionnaire to identify the trends of 81 academic leaders towards culturally diverse human resources at the university as well as the advantages and challenges of managing culturally diverse human resources. The academic leaders exhibited a highly positive trend towards cultural diversity at the university. The challenges that the university faced when managing culturally diverse human resources included cultural issues, the most important of which was a lack of quality programmes on cultural diversity, a lack of awareness of the importance of cultural diversity among its employees, a lack of effective mechanisms to measure the level of cultural diversity, and the poor communication skills of its employees (Al-Sami, 2021).

Another study of Saudi universities used a questionnaire to examine the level of acceptance of five items; dialects, folklore, folk dress, food, customs, and traditions; by 354 university students. The results indicated that the level of acceptance of cultural diversity into Saudi society was relatively high among Saudi youth. A significant increase in the moral and emotional acceptance of cultural diversity in all fields was also noted. This indicated the positive effect of components of intellectual culture, which draws heavily from Islam teachings (Al-Zeer, 2022).

It is unclear if each human society has its own customs. Although these customs may sometimes correspond to the customs of other regions, they often differ. There is an evidently large convergence of the multiple practices and customs of Saudi society and other societies, the most important of which is through marriage. Saudi marriages involve several stages and ceremonies. These stages can be described as the preparations necessary to transition a bride from her father's house to that of her husband. These ancient preparatory stages are still practiced to this day although their names have changed (Al-Hajri, 2018).

2.3 Saudi Marriage Customs

2.3.1 Sermon

Marriage engagements are conducted by the parents of the groom. Some of the key points that are considered when searching for a bride include a preference for relatives, the extent of closeness in social status, and the bride is chosen by according to the preferences of the groom (Al-Hajri, 2018).

2.3.2 Reconciliation

On an agreed upon day, half an hour after the Maghreb prayer, the elders of the groom's family as well as tribal dignitaries visit the home of the bride's father, who greets their arrival with other senior members of the bride's family (Al-Hajri, 2018).

2.3.3 Pony

The wedding takes place after the dowry amount has been agreed upon. Traditionally, the dowry belongs to the bride's guardian and he may do with it as he pleases. The marriage ceremony is conducted in the presence of the village mutawa, the bride's guardian, two witnesses of justice, and the groom, who pays the dowry (Al-Hajri, 2018). In the Islamic tradition, the dowry is paid to the bride as a token of appreciation and as a sign of respect. It is a recognition of a wife's independence from her husband. Therefore, the groom must give his bride her dowry as a wedding gift and she may do with it as she pleases (Al-Attiyat, 2015).

2.3.4 Zaffa

Weddings in the past lasted three days. During this time, sheep and camels were slaughtered to prepare folk food that the bride's female relatives brought with them as they gathered in a house to sing folk songs (Al-Hajri, 2018).

2.3.5 Wedding Banquet

The groom's parents begin marriage preparation two weeks in advance. This involves preparing dates, rice, flour, yoghurt, and lamb. On the wedding day, the groom's father slaughters sheep for the attendees (Al-Hajri, 2018).

2.3.6 Offering

This is a folk dance that begins immediately after the afternoon prayer and continues until the Maghreb prayer. It is attended by all the villagers as well as the

parents of the groom and the bride (Al-Hajri, 2018). However, at present times, the teachings of the hadith have changed the customs and values of marriage. Internal marriages are less common and the age of marriage of both genders has increased. Furthermore, urbanisation has caused an increase in participation in the choice of marriage. This has decreased the strength of traditional relations in the new generation; such as family solidarity, bonding, and visits; and increased the importance of values; such as independence and individuality. Therefore, while traditional households consisted of grandparents, parents, and children, modern households only consist of small nuclear families (Al-Qazlan, 2013).

A study used a questionnaire to identify (1) the attitudes of young people towards consanguineous and exogamous marriages, (2) the social, economic, and urban characteristics associated with their preferred marriage type, and (3) the prevalence of consanguineous and exogamous marriages among the parents of 1860 students from universities and vocational centres. The study found that most of the parents had exogamous marriages and that their children preferred this marriage type as well. However, a significant proportion of the parents had consanguineous marriages and their children preferred this marriage type as well. Therefore, the study confirmed the presence of fundamental differences between those who prefer consanguineous and exogamous marriages over a set of social, family, demographic, and spatial variables (Al-Obaidi, 1997).

Meanwhile, another study used a questionnaire to examine the qualities that 254 male university students looked for when choosing a wife. One of the most significant findings of the study was that most of the respondents preferred to find their own wives with the opinion of the parents. They also wanted wives who were younger than them,

as educated as they were, obedient, serious, sociable, willing to be housewives, from within the KSA, and from their own social class and tribe (Al-Mokbel, 2003).

The purpose of another study was to determine the reality of marriages in Saudi society by examining the correlation between developmental variables and marriage issues as well as the prevailing methods and qualities desired when choosing a life partner. Most of the examined marriages had been arranged by the parents. Kinship marriages were prevalent in the examined group as 61.0% were consanguineous while only 16.7% were exogamous. Young men were also found to have no freedom to choose a life partner while 76.4%, 2.24%, and 2.00% of the respondents chose life partners that were religious, based on financial standing, and had good jobs, respectively (Al-Rumi & Al-Sayej, 2004).

Al-Ruwaili (2006) identified the preferred marriage types of students from King Saud University. The study found that most of the parents of these students had exogamous marriages and that the students themselves preferred exogamous marriages or marriage to non-biologically related relatives. There was also a clear distinction between the preferred marriage types of every tier of household income as students from middle class families preferred consanguineous marriages while those from upper class families preferred exogamous marriages (Al-Ruwaili, 2006).

Meanwhile, another study investigated Saudi university students' perspectives on consanguineous marriage, the perceived positive and negative aspects of inbreeding, the correlation between various demographic variables (including age, field of study, economic status, environment, and parental marriage type) and attitudes toward kin marriages, as well as the preferred characteristics sought in choosing a spouse. The findings revealed that the majority of participants favored exogamous marriage,

expressing a clear preference to marry outside the family and a reluctance to engage in consanguineous unions. The principal reason for rejecting consanguineous marriage was the concern regarding health issues for potential offspring. Other salient reasons included the spread of genetic diseases, parental objection to kin marriages, the involvement of relatives in familial disputes, adherence to values and customs, an elevated risk of having disabled children, the perpetuation of unresolved family problems, and increased dowry costs. In terms of qualities prioritized when selecting a life partner, students emphasized (in descending order) personality, religiosity and moral character, the social standing of the family, familial kinship ties, and finally, educational attainment and economic status (Al-Gharib, 2008).

Al-Dhala (2014) used dump tables to identify the social, physical, behavioural, and cultural characteristics that 383 men and 382 women sought in potential life partners and evaluated them according to the cultural and religious standards of Saudi society. The respondents were found to prefer specific scientific characteristics in a marriage partner as well as specific physical characteristics; such as skin colour and aesthetic shape. Some of the male respondents wanted working and sociable wives while some of the female respondents wanted husbands that had never been married and had a playful spirit. Saudi society still shuns marriage to individuals who smoke and prioritises religiosity. The results of the study reflected this trend as most of the respondents did not want to marry smokers and preferred life partners who were religious and observed traditional dress codes and wore a hijab. The respondents also indicated that they preferred to marry fellow Saudis and preferred life partners residing in specific cities. Female respondents indicated a higher preference for husbands from the same tribe than their male counterparts. They also preferred husbands of high social

standing while male respondents preferred wives of average social standing (Al-Dhala, 2014).

Historically, Saudi marriages were predominantly characterized by two key features: first, early marriages motivated by religious and moral imperatives rooted in the Islamic upbringing and education that young men and women receive within Saudi society; and second, consanguineous marriages, which are unions between close relatives, driven by the kinship ties intrinsic to familial relations in Saudi culture. These consanguineous marriages serve to strengthen family bonds, fostering closer emotional connections among children and motivating them to fulfill familial expectations. Both features reflect the traditional social and religious framework that shaped marital practices in Saudi Arabia for generations, emphasizing religiosity, family cohesion, and social continuity through lineage preservation. This pattern aligns with the historically arranged nature of marriages, where families played a central role in selecting spouses based on kinship and religious considerations (Nawir et al., 2024).

However, adherence to these values is gradually waning as marriage choices are increasingly based on a social and cultural convergence of the two families regardless of kinship (Al-Dhala, 2014). At present, contemporary societal changes have affected the institution of marriage. Multiple sociological studies have also confirmed that tangible changes have occurred in the marriage process. As such, today's family lives amid many material, intellectual, and media transformations that have affected their composition and various structures. These changes are at the forefront of many choices in a society that is rife with developmental problems, transformations, and revolution against ancient traditions. These rapid changes have also shattered the structure of traditional marriages as they are no longer in line with the requirements of the modern

era. As such, modern families have sought to reinvent the structure of marriage by adapting it to urban lifestyles and the demands of the times. This has caused families to adopt a new way of life as evidenced by sets of changes that explain the differences that have appeared over time in the general family format and, particularly, in marriage (Amarah, 2016).

The global and local economic and social changes in society as well as friction between the sexes in terms of education, work, transportation, clubs, and travel have changed marriage decisions in the modern era as well as increased the refusal of many young people to use the traditional method of achieving marital harmony. This is because most modern marriage decisions are determined based on financial standing. Apart from that, social status, beauty, religiosity, and morality are prerequisites when choosing a life partner with which to participate in the cost and burden of married life. These factors have made the life partner selection process a primary reason for marriage abstinence and delayed marriages among young people of both genders (Al-Sharari, 2008).

2.4 Divorce Among Saudis

Divorce disrupts the peace and stability of marital life. Nonetheless, in recent years, the divorce rate has significantly increased in Arab and Saudi societies due to changes in the social structure, the shape and function of a family, prioritising consumer behaviour over the lives of individuals, and the perception of divorce and motherhood. It has also increased in prevalence as divorce has become socially acceptable and is no longer viewed as a "life ending" event. Motherhood and sacrifice are also no longer valued. Furthermore, the entry of women into various occupations as well as their subsequent economic independence from their husbands has significantly increased the

role that women play in family life as women participate with men in the productive processes and have become more independent in their decision (Al-Bashira, 2013).

As is the case with many other societies, Saudi society has experienced many extensive changes in recent decades that have affected its social and economic structure. The rate at which these societal changes spread was further accelerated by the spread of modern means of communication and transportation, the formation of urban communities, the shift to urban life, education and work in new professional roles, and the acceptance of other cultures (Al-Shammari, 2021).

These social, economic, and cultural changes have changed the family structure as well as fundamentally changed the value system of society as a whole and the families within it. This has caused a clear imbalance in the relations and social roles of husbands and wives and given rise to many problems; such as divorce; which is at the forefront of the issues faced by Saudi society (Damgh, 2008). According to the Ministry of Justice (2018), 4888 divorce deeds are issued every month on average. Of this number, 50% are issued in and around Mecca and Riyadh. Furthermore, between 153 to 179 divorce deeds are issued in the KSA daily. Over the past 12 months, the number of divorce deeds issued monthly ranged from 2376 to 5558 (Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1).

Table 2.1 The Graphical Report of Divorce Deeds in various regions of the Saudi Arabia.

Area	Total
Holy Mecca	1,142
Riyadh	1,126
Eastern Province	639
Asir	384
Al-Madina	310
Qassim	237
Jizan	191
Tabuk Province	155
Hail	164
Najran	101
Al Jawf	106
Al-Baha	72
Northern Border	61
Total	4,688

Adapted from Kingdom to the Ministry of Justice (2018).

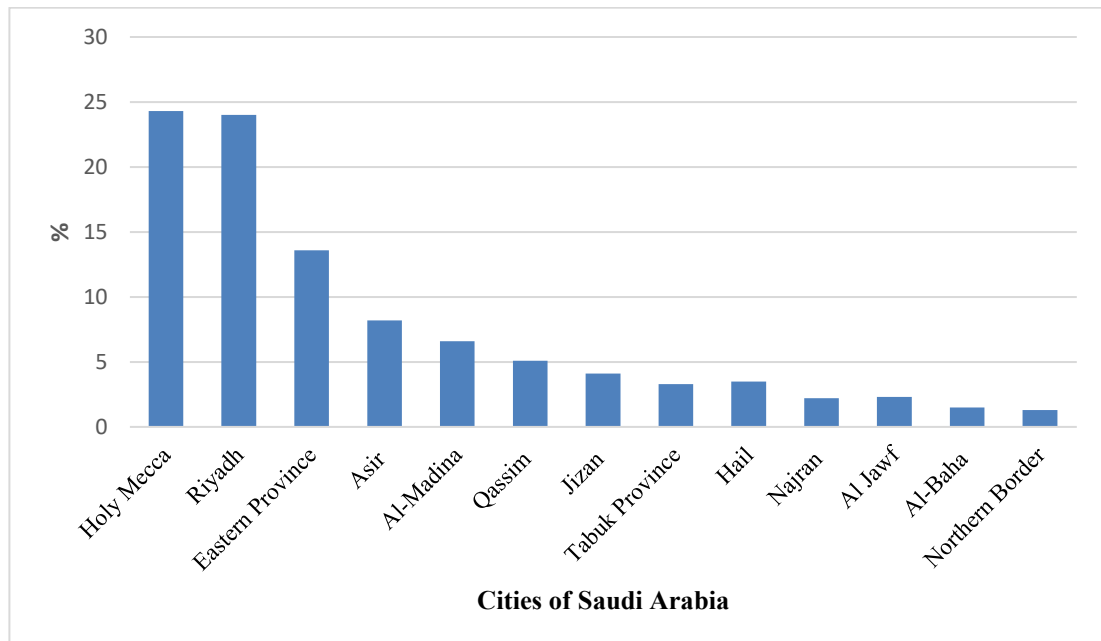


Figure 2.1 The prevalence of divorce in various regions of the Saudi Arabia.

A study by the Al Mawaddah Family Development Association provides the number of divorce deeds issued, the divorce rate of the total population, and the divorce rates in the KSA between 2015 to 2020. Makkah had the highest divorce rate followed by Riyadh, the Eastern Province, and the Northern Borders Province, in descending

order. The divorce rate was low in 2015 but began to increase in 2017 and 2018 before it declined in 2020. As seen in the table, the number of documented divorces increased from 46373 in 2015 to 58049 in 2018. This then gradually decreased until 2020, which had the lowest number of divorces of the examined years (Table 2.2 and Figure 2.2).

Table 2.2 The general divorce rate in Saudi Arabia since 2015 to 2020

Year	Divorce deeds	Total population	General divorce rate
2015	46, 373	31,015,999	1.50
2016	53,604	31,78,580	1.69
2017	57,475	32,552,336	1.77
2018	58,049	33,413,660	1.74
2019	51,125	34,218,169	1.49
2020	42986	34,226,311	1.26

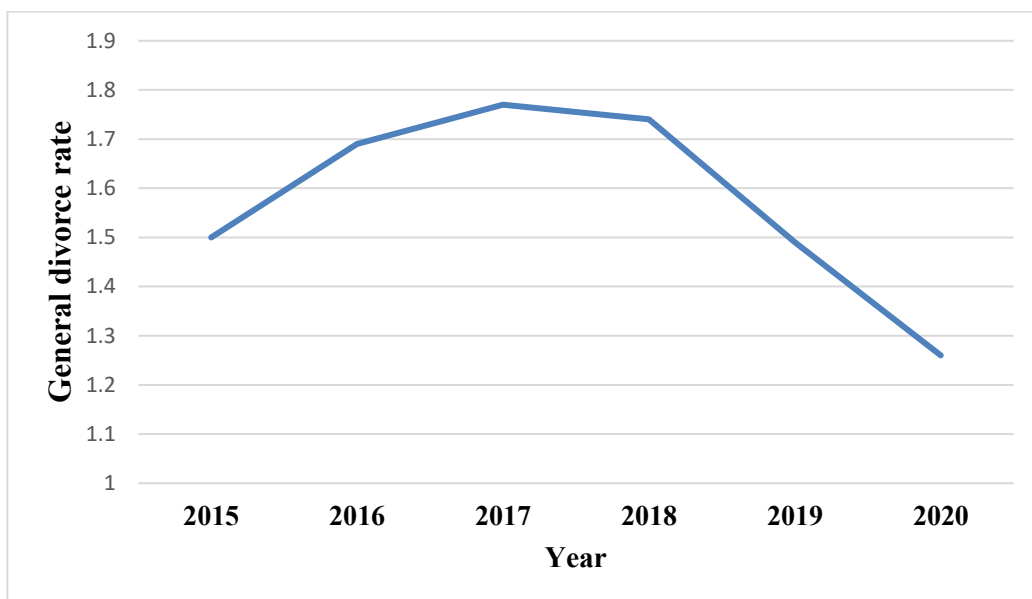


Figure 2.2 The curve of divorce rate in Saudi Arabia since 2015 to 2020.

Throughout history, scientists and thinkers have attempted to identify the causes of family conflicts, especially divorce. Some studies have examined these causes in relation to general social structures and social values while others have examined these causes in relation to economic and social conditions; the access of women to education and work; intellectual, values, and behavioural changes due to globalisation; and the

information and communication revolution that has swept across the contemporary world. For example, functional social scientists attribute the occurrence of divorce in general to the existence of a defect in the general social structure, which affects the family system in terms of construction and function (Abu Ghabash, 2021).

2.4.1 Primary Reasons for Divorce

Divorces occur due to multiple reasons, some of which includes intense hatred between the couple, different tendencies, infidelity, violence, selfishness, falling in love with a third-party, lack of commitment to religious values, animosity and inequality between the parents of the couple, existing problems between the couple's respective families, poor preparation for married life, poor management, excessive boasting, excessive spending in order to boast that negatively affects the family's finances, and blind imitation of certain behaviours without taking into account the reasons for progress or learning from negative experiences in the past (Thobian, 2009). Personality traits, both apparent and inapparent until after marriage, negatively and positively affect married life. Marital compatibility positively correlates to personality traits; such as forethought, self-confidence, conservatism, the power of emotional formation towards oneself, sensitivity towards the needs of spouses, warmth and emotional expression, self-esteem, tactless delivery of criticism, and high skill of manifestation. Meanwhile, traits; such as appreciation, extroversion, self-revelation, and submission; negatively correlate with masculine traits; such as authoritarianism, neuroticism, aggression, emotional imbalance, control, lack of seriousness, isolation, shyness, difficulty expressing oneself, doubt, feeling persecuted, dependence, and naivety (Abu Ghabash, 2021).