

Social and Familial Ways of Bringing up and Their Impact on the Participation of the Youth in Decision-Taking within the Family

(A field study on a sample group of the youth at Damascus University –Faculty of Arts and Humanities)

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Introduction:

The Youth represent a vast and significant sector of society .For it is the most valuable human capacity the nation has. Taking care, patronizing and preparing this sector to shoulder its responsibilities in managing life affairs in the near future, means taking care of the future of the nation .For in as much as the future of the youth is prosperous, bright and shining ,so will be the future of the nation.

Squandering of available capacities and the risks threatening our future which are the result of neglecting the creative capacities that the youth have and not directing or patronizing them in the right way, is the reason behind this quest for successful ways to provide appropriate circumstances for good familial and social bringing up which provides a complete opportunity for our young sons and daughters to participate in the making and taking of decisions within the family .This will prepare them -in the future- to participate effectively in the various activities of society(socio-economic, cultural, political...etc.)and work on activating their positive role in the process of modernization and development and give them the chance for effective contribution to achieving –with other sectors of the society-the comprehensive development of the different aspects of the society .

This will not be achieved unless the society with all its institutions –including family –is capable of solving the problems the youth suffer from and which hinder their participation in the making and taking of decisions whether at the level of the family or other institutions of society.

I. Problem of the research:

The problem of the research within the framework of this study is defined by revealing the impact that socio-familial bringing up has on the degree of youth participation in the making and taking of decision within the family. Due to the fact that the family along with civil and governmental educational institutions shoulders a great responsibility in bringing up and qualifying the youth to participate in social, economic, political and cultural activities that contribute to developing society as well as help accelerate the steps of developing and modernizing our Arab Syrian society .And on the basis that proper socio-familial bringing up provides the youth with the opportunity to participate in the making and taking of decisions within the family through the care, attention and available tools it offers .That means preparing and motivating the youth for an effective participation in taking decisions related to their

society. It also ensures that they play a vital and constructive role in the various activities of the society. Therefore, this research will focus on exploring ways of social bringing up that are followed in the Syrian family and to what extent each of these ways contribute to motivating the youth to participate in decision-taking within the family. In order to enhance , reinforce and generalize appropriate ways and reduce the spread of ways that hinder the youth from participation in decision-taking within the family.

II. The importance of the research:

This research gains its importance from the importance of the sector of the youth – which the research tackles one of its problems-to the future of the nation ." the future of the nation as Goete says is determined by the capacities of its young elements" (Zahlouk,Watfa,D.T.N).For the youth are the men of the future and they are the most valuable human capacities that a nation has .They are the reserved force that is preparing itself to lead all life affairs in the near future .They are the hope of the nation for change ,modernization and development. Taking care of the youth ,providing appropriate circumstances to prepare them educationally, scientifically and professionally in a sufficient way that gurantees utilizing their creative capacities ,means taking care of the future of the nation .It also means developing, modernizing the society and motivating the youth to effective social participation in achieving comprehensive and sustainable development of the society .The family is considered the first social cell in society that takes care of the bringing up of the youth and preparing them to shoulder their responsibilities in active participation in building society on proper basis that guarantee its development and advancement .This research attempts to shed light on the social ways of bringing up the youth within the family and their impact on the participation of the youth in decision-making within the family. It also works on reinforcing and generalizing the appropriate ways and abandoning the inappropriate ones.

III. Third-Objectives of the research:

This research aims at achieving a set of objectives which include:

- Knowing to what extent the youth participate in decision-making within the family .
- Knowing ways of social bringing up that are followed within the family .
- Knowing to what extent the Syrian family accepts the participation of male young people in taking familial decisions.
- Knowing to what extent the Syrian family accepts the participation of female young people in taking familial decisions.
- Revealing how much the family is interested in taking care of its young sons and daughters, preparing and qualifying them to shoulder their future responsibilities in building and developing their society.
- Defining the obstacles that hinder the participation of young people in decision-making within the family.

-Knowing how far parents understand the needs and desires of the youth and help in fulfilling them.

IV. Previous studies:

Reading previous studies that are related to the topic the researcher wants to tackle is something vital and indispensable. This necessitates that the researcher includes in his study a survey of a number of significant studies and researches –both theoretical and field studies-which have been conducted on the same topic or on a topic that is closely related.

Referring to previous studies enables the researcher to get acquainted with the problems that these studies were able to handle and cover. It also reveals to him aspects which has not been tackled or makes him get acquainted with the problems that these studies produced and need to be examined .This saves the researcher conducting a research that has been done before so that his study will not be a repetition of previous studies but a completion of them.

Previous studies also help the researcher define the concepts and terms of his research and formulate his presumptions and determine the appropriate scientific methodology and tools for his topic. In addition to that ,it provides him with a vital collection of resources and references that are necessary for his research. Because of the importance of the many previous studies in the field of youth to this study, we shall demonstrate some of them:

A

A study by the researcher published in (2006) under the title “Obstacles Hindering Societal Participation of the Youth and the Mechanisms of Motivating them to Participate”.

This study focused on two focal points:

The first focal point addressed a number of problems that face the youth in society and hinders their societal participation causing the loss of the creative and innovative capacities of the youth who represent the biggest sector in society .Also among the problems that the study addressed is (the problem of unemployment and the scarcity of job opportunities ,marginalization of the youth ,discrimination against women ,generations conflict ,lack of scientific and professional preparation of the youth)

It is worth mentioning here that dealt with these problems as problems related to the whole society with all its civil and governmental institutions .The study noted that the carelessness of the society towards finding suitable solutions for these problems may lead to spreading negative phenomena among the youth transforming the great energy they have into a tool of destruction instead of being an important tool of building that contributes to the comprehensive development process in society.

The second focal point studied the mechanisms for motivating the youth for societal participation and referred to the role of social institutions both governmental and civil in providing appropriate circumstances for bringing up the youth, preparing, training, qualifying them appropriately in a way that enables them to participate effectively in

the different activities of society aiming at achieving comprehensive and sustainable development of the society.

B

- A study by Iman Ja`fer in (2002) under the title : "the Work and Women Women and their Relation to Decision-making within the Family in Damascus City and Rural Damascus". A field study prepared to get PhD in Sociology .The study aimed at recognizing:
- the relation between fields of work for a woman and the different economic activities in which a woman participates on the one hand and the level of woman participation in decision-taking within the family on the other hand.
- The relation between the level of a woman`s education and her participation in taking family decisions.
- The fields in which both woman and man participate in taking family decisions and the fields where each of them is independent. And how far this is related to the field a woman is working in and her educational level.
- Differences between educated working women on the one hand, and uneducated working women on the other. Also, the differences between educated and uneducated women in terms of participation in taking family decisions and the relation of all that to the place of residence or the amount of monthly income.

The researcher depended in her study on the analytical descriptive approach, using the sample social survey method and the interview questionnaire as a main tool for collecting data whether from working women (educated and uneducated) or from non-working women (educated and uneducated).

The researcher reached at several conclusions of which we briefly mention:

1. A woman does not live isolated from the surrounding social values that affect the nature of relations within the family environment for it has been noted that man still, to some extent, enjoys a distinguished status in the family due to social reasons and others related to the distribution of work within the family. Where man is the one responsible for most of the decisions (determining investments of the family`s money, selling, having children, the travel of the woman abroad.)
2. Woman cannot be looked at only as a member in the family, but also as a member who belongs to other groups; profession group, study colleagues, etc. All these groups influence her opinions and attitudes. Consequently, the way she responds. Therefore, depending on her membership in those groups, she judges things in the light of her standards and the ideas she acquired through these standards, as well as the habits and types of behavior she practiced...
3. The traditional image of the relationship between man and woman in the family environment has started to change towards more participation on the part of woman with other members of the family – including man – in the mechanism of taking decisions that are related to the social affairs of the family, such as (choosing husbands for daughters, wives for sons, continuation of education for

females...) and the results confirmed that the participation of woman is determined somehow by her economic independence. On this basis, working women in this study showed more participation in taking decisions.

4. The study also showed that woman education is among the most important factors that relatively determine the distribution of power within the framework of the family. Because an educated woman participates more in taking the main socio-economic decisions (giving birth, number of children, bringing up children, determining investments, the decision of selling...) and her participation increased whenever her level of education increased.
5. The change of woman and her image about herself must be preceded and accompanied by a change in the environment in which she moves. This necessitates a change in all fields at all levels, such as finding legislative and social changes.
6. Women who were examined in the study, generally give an important role for participation and accepting the man's opinion in case of disagreement over various family decisions.
7. Women in this study – whether living in the city or in country – were free in their personal decisions. Woman in the countryside, however, participates more than woman living in the city, and is more involved in managing family expenses.

C

A study by Ahmad Youssef Abu Rasse (2001): titled *The Attitudes of the Youth in Syria towards Work and Education – a Field Study in the Hama*. A Ph.D. dissertation in Sociology. This study aims at achieving a set of objectives which the researcher limited to two types:

1. Instant objectives (short term): directly connected to the problem of the research and refer to the variables that will be tested and measured and these objectives are represented by:
 - a. Recognizing the attitudes of the youth in Hama towards work and economic activity.
 - b. Recognizing the attitudes of the youth in Hama towards education and its roles and functions.
2. Final objectives, these are the set of objectives that the researcher expects to achieve through this research ,and it is not necessary to achieve all these objectives which can be represented in:
 - a. The attempt to reach at results that help in offering practical suggestions for the attitudes of the youth in Hama towards work and education now and in the future to help the concerned authorities in Hama design programs and policies that contribute to the development process Hama is witnessing.
 - b. Attempting to reinforce positive attitudes among the youths in Hama towards the two sectors of work and education, and trying to reform what

can be reformed by providing instructions and raising awareness among the generation of the youth to create a young generation that is capable adapting to the realities of their society.

- c. Studying the effects of the attitude of the youth in the Hama towards work on the social transformation process in Hama.
- d. Studying the effects of the attitude of the youth in the Hama towards education on the social transformation process in Hama.

The researcher chose the sample social survey method for her research on the basis that it is an organized method for obtaining information that describes socio-economic features, attitudes, opinions and tendencies of a group or society. The questionnaire was used as a tool of collecting data from the study group.

The researcher, through her field study, reached at several conclusions of which we mention:

1. The existence of differences in the attitudes of the youth towards whole education fields according to age. The difference was in favor of the youth of the second age category (21 - 27) and this indicates that the attitude of the youth aged (21 - 27) is more positive than those aged (14 - 20).
2. Absence of differences in attitudes between the youth who live in countryside and those who live city towards general aspects of education. Difference, however, was found in certain aspects such as equal opportunities which was in favor of youth living in countryside. Hence they were distinguished by a more positive attitude than those in the city.
3. The change in the attitude of the youth towards whole aspects of education according to their educational level. For it was found that there are differences between the attitudes of the youth with low educational level and those with medium educational level. Differences were also found between youth with low educational level and those with high educational level.
4. The existence of a difference of statistic significance between the average of youth attitudes in the countryside and those in the city towards choosing academic major. As to the position of this study compared to previous ones, it can be briefly said that this study will examine several aspects that have not been discussed by previous studies. Regarding the first study by the researcher which was theoretical – it discussed the obstacles in front of societal participation of the youth. These obstacles hinder their participation in the various social activities in all sectors of society. Then the study discussed the mechanisms of motivating the youth to societal participation.

As to the second study, it mainly discusses the work and education of women and their relation to decision-taking within the family.

The third study examines the attitudes of the youth in Syria towards work and education. As to this field study it will be concerned with revealing social and familial ways of bringing up that help motivate the youth to participate in decision-taking within the family and work on reinforcing them. This study will

also be concerned with the socio-familial ways of bringing up which form an obstacle in front of the participation of the youth in decision-taking within the family and works on eliminating their negative impacts or reducing them. Hence it is hoped that this study will complete what the previous studies have started; and will add new scientific findings to the previous ones. It should be noted here that previous studies helped enrich this study with significant data on youth topics and helped in defining the concepts and terms of this research, as well as provided the research with several vital sources and references.

V. Scientific Hypotheses

This research is based upon a basic hypothesis which says: there is a link between ways of social bringing up followed in the family and the level of youth participation in taking decisions within the family. Several sub-hypotheses follow from this basic hypothesis such as:

- The democratic socio-familial way of bringing up which depends on constructive dialogue between parents and their young sons and daughters may lead to effective participation of the youth in decision-taking within the family.
- The social way of bringing up which is based upon parents' absolute authority may make the youth reluctant to participate in decision-taking.
- The understanding of the family to the needs and desires of its youth may increase the participation of the youth in decision-taking within the family.

VI. Concepts and Scientific Terms Used in the Research:

Defining the concepts and terms clearly and accurately in social research is considered an important methodological issue in any research. This requires that the researcher uses simple and easy-to-understand phrases in describing concepts and scientific terms included in his/her research so that s/he can define them clearly and accurately. It should be pointed out here that 'other researchers may disagree with the researcher over his definitions of the terms and concepts he uses in his study, but they know how these terms and concepts are used in this research' (Abu Hamdan, 2004, 157). So, we shall resort to defining the connotations of the concepts and scientific terms that will be used in this research such as: family, youth, social upbringing...

a. Concept of Family

A sociologist faces difficulty in finding one clear definition of the concept of family in the literature of Sociology that is agreed upon among sociologists. Therefore, a researcher in this field will notice several different definitions of this concept that tackled the extended and compound family – which is not our concern here – and the core family (by marriage) which is the core of our research. Core family was defined as 'the group of individuals who are closely connected by strong ties which are the result of: marriage, blood and adoption relations. This group lives in the same place and its members; father, mother, children are tied by strong social relations which are based on common interests and aims' (Mitchell, 1986, 97). And in another definition of family 'it is an individual or more who share place, accommodation even if they are not relatives' (Central Bureau of Statistics, 1976, 15). Core family is defined as

'family that consists of two generations: a husband and a wife and their single offsprings living in one shared place and accommodations.' (Abboud, 2002, 29)

b. Concept of Youth

The different connotations of this concept among countries which is clearly reflected in the different meanings assigned to in the field of current social studies and researches examining the situation of the youth, poses an important scientific problem that is facing researchers in this field because researchers throughout the world define the youth sector in different age categories. In Thailand, for instance, youth concept refers to the age category ranging from 1 to 25; in The Philippines from 15 to 30; and in Pakistan, from 10 to 25.

Most researchers (including UNESCO experts) believe that youth category is ranging from 15 to 24 (see Zahlouk, Watfeh, DTN, pp. 44-45).

Dr. Ali al-Hawat considered that youth stage is divided into an early youth stage and late youth stage. The period between 15 to 30 years old was described as youth stage. At the same time, it must be noted, however, that it can be divided into two stages. The first is called early youth stage, and the second is late youth stage. The first stage ranges from 15 to 20 has a special social and psychological features. Whereas the second stage, from after 20 to a little bit before 30, and has its own features.

Youth in Syria was defined according to decree no. 23 of the year 1970 as representing 'the age category from 14 to 27 years descending from all classes of society. In a more general sense, they are the whole Syrian Arab society at a certain age, from 14 to 27.' (Ezziddin, 1986, 18)

Here it is necessary to point out that those who took part in this poll are from the Syrian academic youths. This means that our focus here is limited to a certain section of them; namely those aged between 18 and 30 years old.

c. Social upbringing:

Social upbringing means to teach the individual the values, concepts, and the culture of the society in which he/she lives so that they will be trained to perform a set of roles that identify their everyday behaviour. Social upbringing was defined as "preparing the individual to be a social being and a member in a certain society. The family is the first environment to assume this preparing, and it has a role that no other environment can match.. Social upbringing is a continuous, dynamic process that starts with the birth of the individual and continues until their death.. Social education is a form of social upbringing." (Al-Akhras, 1984, 504).

d. The method of democratic family social upbringing:

In this research it means the social upbringing which is based on constructive dialogue and understanding between the parents and their children as an objective method to solve the problems that the family may face. This method allows grown-up children the freedom to discuss their views, thoughts and suggestions about their personal matters and family-related issues. It also allows them to take part in discussing these issues and making a decision about them in the family, adhering to the principle of the right to disagree with others in views and ideas. By doing so, this

method of upbringing is contributing to preparing the youths and qualifying them to shoulder their future social responsibilities.

e. Social family upbringing that is based on the absolute authority of parents:

In this research it means the social upbringing in which the parents take full control of the family and they continue to deal with their grown-up children in the same they dealt with them in their childhood. The main features of this method are strictness in dealing with children, ignoring them, preventing them from expressing their views and scolding them continuously for the slightest reason.

f. The method of slack and indifferent family social upbringing:

Here it means family social upbringing in which parents do not care about the conduct of their children, be it positive or negative, and they do not guide, supervise or look after their children properly. The main features of this method are indifference and irresponsibility on the part of parents towards their children, in addition to being lax with them when they misbehave.

VII. Research methodology:

This research adopts the analytical descriptive method, which suits the nature of the studied phenomenon. It also uses the social survey method and the questionnaire form as the main tool to collect data. The researcher can collect the data and information required for the research, analyze and interpret them based on the answers of the surveyed individuals to the questions provided on the form. The design of the form and its main dimensions have been made to suit the tasks and objectives of the research. The questions on the form have been put in a logical order to help the surveyed to focus and answer them objectively. This will also help the researcher to register the data, classify and deal with it later. After finishing the initial design of the form, it was tested on a small specimen (20 students) of the original research society. After considering the answers they gave to the questions of the form, there was a reformulation or modifications for some unclear or difficult questions, or the questions that could have more than one answer. The new answers given by the polled individuals and which were not mentioned in the form were added by the researchers to the existing answers. In this way the final design of the form was finished, and the form was ready to collect data from the field.

Limits of the research and its specimen:

Since university students form the large and educated section of the youths, and because they represent the different sections of the society, the research will target a specimen of the Syrian students (males and females) in the faculty of letters at Damascus university. This specimen will be chosen on purpose because it will include only Syria students whose parents are still alive; which will exclude the non-Syrian students and the students who have lost either of their parents. The specimen will include 100 individuals evenly chosen from both sexes. The time period of the research will start in 1/3/2007 and will last till 30/9/2007.

VIII. results of the study:

This study is based on the assumption that there is a relation between the adopted method of social upbringing in the family and the extent to which the youths participate in making decision in the family.

Many sub-hypotheses can be drawn from this basic assumption:

- a. Research results related to the first sub-hypothesis: the democratic method of family social upbringing which depends on dialogue between the parents and their grown-up children may lead to an effective participation of the youths in making decisions in the family.

Statistical chart number (1) shows the opinion of the polled youths regarding the democratic method of family social upbringing, and how it stimulate them to participate in making decisions in the family.

Answers	males		females		total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Strongly agree	28	28	33	33	61	61
Partly agree	21	21	17	17	38	38
Do not agree at all	1	1	-	-	1	1
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

Data in the statistical chart number (1) shows that 61 male and female students strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is a percentage of 61% of the specimen which includes 100 individuals. The number of those who replied with "partly agree" was 38 individuals, with a percentage of 38%. Only 1 individual replied with "do not agree at all" with a percentage of 1% of the total number of individuals in the specimen. This shows that all the polled individuals (males or females) agree with this hypothesis either strongly or partly, except for one individual who does not agree at all. That is what the results will be if we consider the data of the total number (males and females). But if we want to classify the data of the chart according to the sex, we will find that 28 male student strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is 28% of the whole specimen, and 56% of the total number of males. We will also find that 33 female students strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is 33% of the whole specimen, and 66% of the total number of females. This shows that the number of females who strongly agree with this hypothesis is bigger than that of the males.

The number of those who partly agree with this hypothesis was 21 male students; a percentage of 21% of the whole specimen; and 42% of the total number of males. The number of female students who partly agree was 17 students; a percentage of 17% of the whole specimen; and 34% of the total number of females. It shows the number of males is bigger than that of the females. As for those who do not agree at all, the number was only 1 male student; that is 1% of the whole specimen; and 2% of the total number of males.

- b. Research results related to the second sub-hypothesis: Social upbringing which is based on the absolute authority of parents may lead to the unwillingness of the youths to take part in making decisions in the family.

Statistical chart number (2) shows the opinion of the polled youths regarding the fact that social upbringing based on the absolute authority of parents may lead to the unwillingness of the youths to take part in making decisions in the family.

Answers	males		females		total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Strongly agree	19	19	28	28	47	47
Partly agree	26	26	14	14	40	40
Do not agree at all	5	5	8	8	13	13
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

Statistical chart number (2) shows that 47 students (males and females) strongly agree with the second sub-hypothesis; that is 47% of the whole specimen which includes 100 individuals. It also shows that 40 students- 40% of the whole specimen- partly agree with it. It also shows that 13 students (males and females) do not agree at all with this hypothesis; that is 13% of the specimen. This means that the majority of individuals in the specimen (87) strongly or partly agree, whereas only 13 do not agree at all with this hypothesis. That is what the results will be if we consider the data of the total number. But if we want to classify the data of the chart according to the sex, we will find that 19 male student strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is 19% of the whole specimen, and 38% of the total number of males. We will also find that 28 female students strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is 28% of the whole specimen, and 56% of the total number of females. This shows that the number of females who strongly agree with this hypothesis is bigger than that of the males. This could be so because parents are stricter in dealing with their daughters than with their sons.

Data in the statistical chart (2) shows that the number of those who partly agree with this hypothesis was 26 male students; a percentage of 26% of the whole specimen; and 52% of the total number of males. The number of female students who partly agree was 14 students; a percentage of 14% of the whole specimen; and 28% of the total number of females. The chart also shows that 5 male students- 5% of the specimen and 10% of the males- do not agree at all. We can also see that 8 female students- 8% of the specimen and 16% of the females- do not agree at all with this hypothesis.

- c. Research results related to the third sub-hypothesis: when the family understands the needs and wishes of its grown-up children ,this will encourage them to take part in making decisions within the family.

Statistical chart number (3) shows the views of the polled youths regarding the fact that when the family understands the needs and wishes of its grown-up children ,this will encourage them to take part in making decisions within the family.

Answers	males		females		total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Strongly agree	22	22	37	37	59	59
Partly agree	28	28	13	13	41	41
Do not agree at all	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

Data in the statistical chart number (3) shows that 59 male and female students strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is a percentage of 59% of the specimen. It also shows that 41 students (males and females) partly agree; that is 41% of the specimen. That is what the results will be if we consider the data of the total number (males and females). But if we want to classify the data (the answers) of the chart according to the sex, we will find that 22 male student strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is 22% of the whole specimen, and 44% of the total number of males. We will also find that 37 female students strongly agree with this hypothesis; that is 37% of the whole specimen, and 74% of the total number of females. This shows that the majority of those who strongly agree with this hypothesis were from the females. The reason behind this could be that taking care to meet the demands of the daughters is less than that of the sons, it also supports the view that the girl is bound to meet a husband and be associated with him. The data of chart (3) also shows that 28 male students; that is 28% of the specimen and 56% of the males, partly agree. We can also see that 13 female students; that is 13% of the specimen and 26% of the females, partly agree with this hypothesis.

Statistical chart number (4) shows to what extent parents understand and help to achieve the needs and wishes of their children:

Answers	males		females		total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Yes	40	40	36	36	76	76
Sometimes	-	-	3	3	3	3
No	9	9	11	11	20	20
Total	49	49	50	50	99	99

The data of this chart shows that 76% of the polled students said that their parents do understand and help to achieve their needs and wishes. 3% of the specimen replied with "sometimes" to the same question, and 20% of the specimen replied with "no". if we want to break up these numbers in terms of males and females, chart (4) shows

that 40 male students; that is 40% of the specimen and 80% of the males, replied with "yes". It also shows that 36 female students; i.e. 36% of the specimen and 72% of the females replied with "yes", and that 3 female students - 3% of the specimen- replied with "sometimes". We can also see that 9 male students - 9% of the specimen and 18% of the males- replied with "no", and that 11 female students replied with "no"; that is 11% of the specimen and 22% of the females.

Statistical chart number (5) shows the adopted method of social upbringing in the family:

Answers	males		females		total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Strictness	99	99	9	9	18	18
Dialogue and understanding	33	33	38	38	71	71
Slackness and indifference	8	8	3	3	11	11
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

18% of the specimen believe that the adopted method of social upbringing in their families is strictness. 71% believe that the adopted method is dialogue and understanding. 11% of the polled individuals consider slackness and indifference as the adopted method for social upbringing in their families. That will be the case if we consider the data as a whole. But if we consider the details regarding males and females, we will see that 9 male students believe that strictness is the adopted method; that is 9 % of the specimen and 18% of the males. 9 female students; 9% of the specimen and 18% of the females, believe that strictness is the adopted method. The chart also shows that 33 male students, i.e. 33% of the polled and 66% of the males, believe that dialogue and understanding is the adopted method. It also shows that 38 female students, i.e. 38% of the specimen and 76% of the females, believe that dialogue and understanding is the adopted method. This shows that the number of females who believe that dialogue and understanding is the adopted method is bigger than that of the males. The reason for this could be that it is females rather than males who prefer dialogue and understanding instead of confrontation and disagreement. Furthermore, the chart shows that 8 male students, 8 % of those polled and 16% of the males, believe that slackness and indifference is the adopted method. 3 female students, i.e. 3% of those polled and 6% of the females, believe that slackness and indifference is the adopted method. The reason for this difference between males and females could be that parents follow this method with their sons more than with their daughters. Statistical chart number (6) shows the views of the surveyed youths regarding the extent to which their family social upbringing is allowing them to participate in making decisions within the family.

Answers	males		females		total	
	number	%	number	%	number	%
Yes	22	22	28	28	50	50
Sometimes	21	21	15	15	36	36
No	7	7	7	7	14	14
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

The data in chart (6) shows that 50% of the specimen agreed that the adopted social upbringing is allowing them to participate in making decisions within the family, whereas 36% of the specimen replied that it "sometimes" allows them to participate in making decisions within the family, and 14% of the specimen replied with "no". The detailed data about males and females shows that 22 male students; i.e. 22% of those polled and 44% of the males, believe their family social upbringing is allowing them to participate in making decisions within the family. It also shows that 28 female students, i.e. 28% of the specimen and 56% of the females believe their family social upbringing is allowing them to participate in making decisions within the family. The results show that the percentages are different between males and females; it is less than 50% with males and more than 50% with females. The chart also shows that 21 male students, i.e. 21% of the specimen and 42% of the males replied with "sometimes". 15 female students, i.e. 15% of the specimen and 30% of the females, replied with "sometimes". 7% of the male students, i.e. 7% of the specimen and 14% of the males, believe their family social upbringing is not allowing them to participate in making decisions within the family, and the same number of females also believe that the method followed does not allow them to participate in making decision within the family...

As for whether the test group members' families favor their male children over their female ones, chart (7) shows the following:

Chart (7) about whether test group members' families favor their male children over their female ones

Answers	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	8	8	9	9	17	17
sometimes	14	14	14	14	28	28
No	28	28	27	27	55	55

The chart shows that more than most of the members' families do not favor male children over female ones.

As for members' families' agreement on their sons choosing their future wives, chart (8) shows the following results:

Chart (8) about members' families' agreement on their sons choosing their future

Answers	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	27	27	25	25	52	52
sometimes	19	19	20	20	39	39
No	4	4	5	5	9	9
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

wives

This chart demonstrates similar results between male members' families and female members' ones.

As for members' families' agreement on their daughters participating in making decisions regarding choosing their future husbands, chart (9) shows the following results:

Chart (9) about members' families' agreement on their daughters participating in making decisions regarding choosing their future husbands

Answers	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	16	16	34	34	50	50
sometimes	20	20	10	10	30	30
No	14	14	6	6	20	20
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

Perhaps this contrast between males' answers and females' ones concerning this question is due to males' desire to maintain their custodianship over females. I believe as well that customs and traditions have played, and still playing, a significant role in males' persistence on this opinion, though this fact is changing to the interest of females with time.

As for parents' acceptance of contrast in points of view between them and their youth children, chart (10) shows the following numbers:

Chart (10) about members' parents' acceptance of contrast in points of view between them and their youth children

Answers	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	29	29	35	35	64	64
No	21	21	15	15	36	36
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

% 64 of the test group answered 'yes', which means that parents belief in their children's right to different points of view. Moreover, this percentage is relatively close to that of the members who assured that the social upbringing method being followed in their families is based upon dialogue and understanding, which was % 71 as shown in chart (5). These two results support each other.

As for male members' parents allowing them to participate in discussing and making decisions regarding family resources and expenditures, chart (11) shows the following results:

Chart (11) about male members' parents allowing them to participate in discussing and making decisions regarding family resources and expenditures

Answers	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	16	16	24	24	40	40
sometimes	17	17	16	16	33	33
No	17	17	8	8	25	25
Total	50	50	48	48	98	98

The reason behind allowing females to participate in discussing and making decisions regarding family resources might be due to their better knowledge of house needs and rationalizing consumption.

As for female members' parents allowing them to participate in discussing and making decisions regarding family resources and expenditures, chart (12) shows the following results:

Chart (12) about female members' parents allowing them to participate in discussing and making decisions regarding family resources and expenditures

Answers	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	16	16	34	34	50	50
sometimes	20	20	10	10	30	30
No	14	14	6	6	20	20
Total	50	50	50	50	100	100

As for the obstacles – from the test group point of view – facing the efficient participation of youth in decision making concerning family affairs, chart (13) shows the following results:

Chart (13) about the obstacles – from the test group point of view – facing the efficient participation of youth in decision making concerning family affairs

Obstacle	Males			Females			Total	
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total	No.	%
Parents prejudicing their children	47	3	50	41	9	50	100	100
Carelessness and indifference in upbringing	43	7	50	38	12	50	100	100
Carelessness of children's needs	41	9	50	42	8	50	100	100
Lack of dialogue and understanding	49	1	50	44	6	50	100	100
Inability to provide for the family	2	-	2	1	-	1	3	3
Outdated customs and traditions	2	-	2	1	-	1	3	3
Aloofness and lack of self-confidence	3	-	3	2	-	2	5	5
Lack of parents' confidence in their children	2	-	2	3	-	3	5	5
Clash of generations	-	-	-	3	-	3	3	3
Treating youths like children	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Quarrels within the family	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	2

This chart demonstrates that % 88 of test group believe that parents' absolute authority over their children is an obstacle facing their participation in family decision making; % 81 believe that it is carelessness and indifference in upbringing children that prevent them from participating; % 83 believe it is carelessness of children's needs; and % 93 believe that lack of dialogue and understanding is an obstacle facing their participation in family decision making.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Family plays a crucial and vital role in social upbringing; it is involved, together with other public and private social institutions, in raising and qualifying children in order to be able to hold their social responsibilities complete. Taking into account the great importance of the family in setting the proper circumstances for making a generation that is capable of participating positively in different domains of society, and believing in the causes of its nation; and knowing that making a generation of youths that are capable of holding responsibilities and participating in making decisions – both for themselves and their society -, starts from training them on discussing and making decisions within the family, and qualifying them for holding their responsibilities towards themselves, their families, society and nation. This study deals with the methods of social upbringing followed in the Syrian families, and with their effects on youths' participation in decision making within the family. Findings of the field study have proved the validity of the basic hypothesis upon which this study is based i.e. the presence of a certain relationship between social upbringing methods in Syria and youths' participation in decision making within the family, through examining the sub-hypotheses emerging from the basic one. Examination results of the first sub-hypothesis indicated that % 61 of the test group answered 'strongly agree' that democratic method of social upbringing in the family helps motivating youths to participate in decision making within the family, % 38 answered 'somehow agree', and only % 1 answered 'disagree'.

Second sub-hypothesis results showed that % 47 of the test group answered 'strongly agree' on that parents' absolute authority may lead to children's reluctance of participation in decision making within their families, % 40 'somehow agree', and % 13 'disagree.'

Second sub-hypothesis results demonstrated that % 59 answered 'strongly agree' on the fact that family understanding of children's needs and desires may lead them to be eager to participate in decision making within the family, % 41 'somehow agree', and there was no 'disagree' answers.

The study has also discovered several other results of which:

- % 52 of test group members' families allow a young man to select his future wife; in % 39 allow them sometimes; and % 9 do not.
- % 50 of members' families allow female's participation in decision making concerning her future husband; % 30 sometimes; and % 20 do not.
- % 40 of test group members families allow there sons to discuss and participate in making decisions in terms of family resources and expenditures; % 33 allow them sometimes; and % 25 do not.

- % 50 of test group member families allow their daughters to discuss and participate in making decisions in terms of family resources and expenditures; % 30 allow them sometimes; and % 20 do not.
- % 93 of members believe that lack of dialogue and understanding creates an obstacle in their way to participate in decision making within the family.
- % 88 believe that parents' absolute authority over their children is an obstacle facing them in decision making within the family.

The researcher offers a number of recommendations as follows:

- Holding symposiums dealing about care and guidance for parents, and guide them to the social upbringing method based upon dialogue and understanding with their children, which is the best way in making youths and preparing them for holding responsibilities and participating in decision making within their families, and their society as well.
- Granting youths a wider range of freedom of thought and expressing their own opinions and desires, and allowing them to participate in discussing and making decisions regarding their own lives or their families'.
- Offering fully considered programs to activate youths' role in participation in different societal activities within the family and society.
- Information media to contribute positively to clarifying the dangers of neglecting youths, following the social upbringing methods based upon parents' absolute authority, monopolizing decision making within the family, too much prohibition and restraints and treating youths like little children.
- Enriching the educational curriculum with topics related to modern and healthy social upbringing methods that determine the characteristics of the healthy relationship between parents and children.

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