

# The Relationship between Parental Abuse and Psychological Safety of the Children at the City of Amman and the Central Valleys of Jordan

Hanan Abd Al-Hameed Al-Anani<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Educational Sciences, Princess Alia University College, Al-Balqa' Applied University, Jordan

Correspondence: Hanan Abd Al-Hameed Al-Anani, Department of Educational Sciences, Princess Alia University College, Al-Balqa' Applied University, Jordan. E-mail: morganiteinstitute@yahoo.com

Received: August 22, 2014 Accepted: October 15, 2014 Online Published: December 30, 2014

doi:10.5539/ies.v8n1p46

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/ies.v8n1p46>

## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to identify the degree of parental abuse and psychological security of the child, as well as the degree differences of these variables, based on the gender, the age and place of residency. The aim of this study also was to detect the relationship between parental abuse and the psychological security of the child. The sample consisted of (207) children aged between (5-10) years, living in the city of Amman and Central Ghor Valleys in Jordan. The validity and reliability of the scales were ensured, as "T" test and means were used in this study. The study findings concluded the following:

The degree of parental abuse, physical and emotional, was medium. The degree of psychological security was high.

There were statistical significant differences in physical, emotional and total abuse due to place of residency toward children at the Central Ghor Valleys in addition to the children at the city of Amman in security factor.

There was negative and significant relationship between parental, and psychological abuse.

**Keywords:** parental abuse, psychological security, children, Amman, central valleys, Jordan

## 1. Introduction

The childhood stage is considered the most important among the growth stages where the individual personality is developed during that stage as well as his present and future psychological entity and structure were greatly identified. Besides, the family is classified as the first and the most important human group which provide the care to the child in addition to achieving comfort and reassurance or mistreating him which caused grief, pain and insecurity.

The Islamic law established basis for coherent system of family in terms of its entities and functions in order to determine the form of the family, functions and rights of its members and the child's right to integrated care and protection from violence and abuse (Al-Saud, 2005).

Recently, international organizations and institutions focused on the need for child protection and the preservation of their rights, in spite of that, the child is still exposed to abuse and various forms (Abu Rayash et al., 2006).

Moreover, in the United States, for example, experts estimate that two million to four million children are abused each year (Al Ghareeb, 2008), additionally, Arabic Studies described as included in the studies conducted by Nu'aysa (2012) and Anani, Khalidi, and Yamani (2012) that there is abuse directed to the child in several forms which are varied in severity from one study to another. Hussein (2008) indicated in his study in regarding difficult to determine the size of the phenomenon of child abuse because of statistical information differs between studies and communities because of the difference in cultural and moral framework.

The interest in childhood is the most important criteria by which to measure their progress of society, because children are the future of the peoples, and their contribution in building the future, and that the study of the family of paramount importance for its role in shaping the personalities of children positively and negatively, as the children abuse a sense of depression, unhappiness and disappointment (Shibani, 2005) and reduce their sense of psychological security (Obaidan, 2010).

The children are exposed to abuse from the moment of birth, and old forms of abuse of child abandonment and infanticide is evident in the verse The Holy Quran: Chapter 81: Al-Takwir: “And when the girl-child buried alive is questioned about, ‘For what crime was she killed?’ 8.9) and modern styles of child abuse come (Al-Saud, 2005; Cirgus, 2010):

- Negligence: It includes physical negligence, such as malnutrition and, psychological-Neglect: includes physical neglect, such as malnutrition and neglect, psychological in addition to deprivation of love, compassion, and educational neglect, besides lack of normal upbringing.
- Physical abuse: The in physical harm suffered by the child, such as beating, burning defamation.
- Psychological abuse: According to the verbal abuse and the pain felt by the child, and the child refused to include isolated and intimidating and neglect or ridicule him.
- Sexual abuse: The sexual exploitation of children by those who are older, of whom, and forms of harassment and rape.

It could be argued that the different kinds of neglect could fall within the physical abuse, and mental health such as: Deprivation of love, compassion, and educational negligence, such as lack of normal upbringing.

- Physical abuse: In physical harm suffered by the child, such as beating, burning defamation.
- Psychological abuse: According to the verbal abuse and the pain felt by the child, and his refusal to include isolated and intimidating and neglect or ridicule him.
- Sexual abuse: The sexual exploitation of children by those who are older, of whom, and forms of harassment and rape.

It could be argued that the different kinds of neglect could fall within the physical abuse, and mental health.

#### Explanatory Theories of Abuse

There are several theories attempts to interpret the abuse of a child as follows:

- Behavioral Theory: The owners of this theory is that the organism responds to certain stimuli in the environment responses specific, so contributing to this theory in the interpretation of child abuse on the grounds that they were educated from the environment, and that the abuser when reinforces the behavior, it will repeat the behavior of child abuse in similar circumstances (Al-Saud, 2005) on the other hand allow this theory of punishment on children (Melhem, 2010), physical or psychological harm to the child is, according to this theory, an amendment to the erroneous behavior of the child.
- Social Learning Theory: “Pandora” believes that observation and imitation play a role of great learning, many of the behaviors associated with the observation of others that is, they are getting vary in its creasing and decreasing besides promotion a significant impact in strengthening this simulation (Anani, 2011).
- Analytical Theory: This theory explains parental abuse of children through repression and frustration among parents in the unconscious, so that the “ego “to be have been exposed to harm in childhood, forcing them to hurt their children. The Freud that a child who is being subjected to abuse and parents, it may have negative feelings toward them, “Tuchanan “in his study indicated that parents abuse to their children they are of childhood unhappy through which abuse them constantly accompanied by a low estimate of the self and psychological problems other had negative repercussions on their relationship (Ibrahim, 2002).

Constructivist Functional Theory: The supporters of this theory confirm that children abuse is resulted from economic, social conditions are in situations of family and working conditions and pressures and layoffs in its various forms and family disputes, poverty and low income with an increased number of family members and subsequent feeding inappropriate and housing is inadequate and education is not enough, and neighbors are corrupt, all of these factors are intensifying with each other to enhance parental abuse against children, it represents an environmental socio-economic pressures on parents to practice their aggression toward children (Ibrahim, 2002).

Integrated-environmental pattern: This pattern indicates that phenomenon of abuse is governed by environmental, socio-cultural and family factors such as: the tension between the couple, children problems, and personal factors in addition to characteristics of individuals (Ghareeb, 2008), all of these factors encourages parents to abuse of the child. The child abuse spread all over the world and as it is interpreted by taking into account the socio-cultural context (Donping, 2009). On the other hand, attention should be paid to personal factors upon interpreting abuse. Both internal and external factors interact together and lead to the occurrence of the behavior of child abuse.

- Theoretical Analysis: “Freud” in his theory made a connection between psychological and human physical security along with achieving the needs associated with them, in which he believes that the man works to achieve his needs in order to reach stability besides achieving his Self-realization, but if he fails in this, the sources of internal risk has led to poor adjustment and instability with his surroundings, as indicated by “Freud” that aggressive tendencies and sensuality that generates human with a lack of security reasons (Abdul Razzaq, 2009).

- Affection Theory: “Bolby” believes that the presence of physical and psychological for the parents is the goal in itself to satisfy child’s basic needs which makes him to feel secure with a sense of confidence in himself as well as the efficiency of parental care, providing the child with proactive and practical environment, and becoming a mother base security back to the child after the exploration, and a source of reassurance in the positions of stress and adversity.

Human Theory: Maslow perhaps discusses more than any other researchers about the need for psychological security besides, he developed a test for it where he believes that sense of security is composed of three main dimensions, specifically: love, belonging, security, and their satisfaction is a main requirement of the individual’s sense of reassurance (Zayeid, 2007).

Maslow indicates that the individual agreement in his various stages of growth depends on the sense of security or tranquility in his childhood, as if he grew up in an atmosphere of security and warm, he will be able to satisfy his needs (Ghraibeh, 2004).

The previous theories despite differences in their frames of reference, but it is consistent in emphasizing the importance of the sense of security for the individual, in particular, for the child, it is also useful to emphasize the importance of the environment surrounding the baby regarding security starting from the end of the family and society.

### *1.1 Problem of the Study*

The child abuse adversely affects his character, (Hussein, 2008; World Health Org, 2002) studies indicated the prevalence of abuse in Western and Arab societies, while the other studies conducted by (Alghareeb, 2008; Benflis, 2010; Zani et al., 2001) studies conducted the relationship of these to abuse the child’s age and gender, attributes of the parents and their characteristics. On the other hand Islamic Sharia and researches by (Shakir, 2005; Contreas & Kerns, 2000) emphasized on the importance of a sense of security and its ability to achieve social and psychological harmonization which is due to this position for the variables of child abuse and psychological security.

### *1.2 Questions of the Study*

The researcher tried to answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the degree of parental abuse of the child?
- 2) Are there any statistical significant differences in parental abuse (Father and Mother Images) depending on the variable gender of the child?
- 3) Are there any statistical significant differences in parental abuse (Father and Mother Images) depending on the child age?
- 4) Are there any statistical significant differences in the degree of parental abuse (Father and Mother Images) depending on the variable place of residency?
- 5) What is the degree of the psychological sense of security to the child?
- 6) Are there any statistical significant differences in the degree of psychological security (Father and Mother Images) depending on the gender of the child variable?
- 7) Are there any statistical significant differences in the degree of psychological security (Father and Mother Images) variable depending on the child’s age?
- 8) Are there any statistical significant differences in the degree of psychological security (Father and Mother Images) depending on the variable place of residency?
- 9) What is the nature of the relationship between parental abuse of a child and his psychological security?

### *1.3 Importance of the Study*

The importance of this study is as follows:

- 1) Parental Abuse of their child is one of the major problems experienced by many children in various families and communities; therefore, there is a need to several studies that may be added to the theoretical literature in the field.
- 2) The parental abuse is considered important factors that the child feels depressed with lack of security and many other harmful emotions. At the same time, psychological security is considered one of the major factors in terms of mental health which plays an essential role in the psychological integrity of the personality of the individual as well as in the stability and progress of civilization and cultural development of the community.
- 3) Possibility that this study will provide recommendations on the basis of the normal relationship with the child that could benefit the academic.
- 4) Emphasizing the role of both father and mother in the study of abuse and psychological security of the child, where the psychologists stressed the importance of each one of them in the child upbringing.
- 5) The importance of the targeted group of the study which consists of the children were taking care of them is means for protecting and enriching their personalities so that they can carry out their responsibilities towards themselves and their homelands as well.

#### *1.4 Objectives of the Study*

This study aims at:

- 1) Identifying degree of parental abuse, and psychological security of the child.
- 2) Detection of significant differences in parental abuse and psychological security attributable to the child's gender, age and place of residency.
- 3) Recognizing the nature of the relationship between parental abuse and psychological security of the child.

#### *1.5 Terms of study and its Procedural Definitions*

**Abuse:** Abuse in this study is defined as being directed behavior of the parents of the child and cause him harm physically or psychologically. It is expressed primarily procedural obtained by the child on a scale of child abuse, which was prepared for the achievement of the objectives of this study.

**Psychological Security:** Security known in this study as a child's sense of tranquility, love, belonging and security with his parents and the dimension of anxiety and tension which expressed by primarily procedures obtained by the child on a scale of psychological security, which was prepared to achieve the objectives of this study.

**Children:** The children are identified in this study as the individuals who pass through early childhood, middle, in particular the ones from the age of 5-10 years.

**The Central Jordan Valley:** It is the middle part of the Jordan Valley area extending from the north to the south of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

#### *1.6 Limitations of the Study*

This study is limited with the instruments which the researcher measured its validity and reliability, as well as by the characteristics of the sample and the variables used in the study along with the time period in which the study was implemented specifically the academic year (2013-2014).

## **2. Literature Review**

Ghraibeh (2004) conducted a study to detect the degree of psychological security and its relationship with some variables among the students of the University of Al al-Bayt. The study members was (218) male and female students. The study results showed a high degree of sense of security among students and the lack of differences in this class which is attributable to gender.

Alaqra (2005) conducted a study to identify the psychological sense of security among the students of An-Najah National University. The sample consisted of (1002) students. The study concluded the following results: There are no significant differences in psychological security among the students of the university attributed to gender, college, place of residence, and the academic achievement, as the degree of psychological sense of security of the study sample was low with (49.9%) percentage.

Sherritt and Abdullah (2006) conducted a study to detect the dimensions of security and psychological track that came from childhood to adulthood, and differences attributable to gender and age, and the interaction between them. The sample consisted of 600 children and adolescents and adults in Egypt. Has been reached several dimensions of security and psychological ones: trust and acceptance and social support, and ambition, it turns

out that there are differences of statistical significance in the sense of security is due to race in favor of females, and age in favor of the older, and the interaction of gender with age.

Zayeid (2007) conducted a theoretical study aimed to detect the effect of psychological insecurity on achievement motivation. The study findings emphasize importance of security to the feeling of happiness, harmony and achieving the creativity and performance.

The aim of the study is conducted by Alghareeb (2008) was to identify the characteristics of the social, economic and cultural rights of the families of children exposed to abuse in Saudi Society. The study adopted the case study method for the analysis of (110) of children case files that have been abused at a number of Saudi cities. The study found that physical abuse came first, followed by emotional abuse and sexual abuse finally. The results also illustrated that the lower the education of the father and the economic level, the child abuse is increased.

Abdul Razzaq (2009) confirmed in his study aimed to investigate the effect of a counseling program in realistic manner for processing the development of psychological security of the students at the intermediate stage in Iraq, the sample consisted of (30) female students at Diyala Governorate in Iraq where the sample was distributed into two equal groups. The study results indicated existence of significant differences in psychological security for the benefit of the training program in favor of the experimental group in the dimensional test.

Benflis (2010) conducted a study which aimed to detect forms of parental abuse of the child and their relationship to self-concept in Algeria. The study total sample consisted of (174) boys and girls at the age of 12 years. The study results showed that there were significant differences in parental abuse attributed to the direction of the female gender.

The aim of the study by Al Arab (2011) aimed to identify the forms of child abuses and their effects. The sample consisted of 50 members of the students' parents in Ajloun Primary School in Jordan. The study results showed that the most common forms of abuse are verbal ones which lead to increase suffering from numerous psychological problems.

The aim of the study conducted by Anani, Khalidi, and Yamani (2012) was to detect degree of parental abuse of the child and their relationship to the gender and age of the child. The sample consisted of 120 boys and girls aged between 8-11 were selected from primary schools in Marj Al Hamam and Wadi Seer in Amman. The study conclusions found that the degree of abuse was average. In addition to that, there are significant differences in the degree of physical and emotional abuses and the overall degree of abuse due to the gender of the child that females are more vulnerable to abuse than males, and that there are significant differences in the physical abuse and the overall degree of abuse due to the age of the child in favor of children with the age 10-11.

The aim of the study conducted by Nu'aysa (2012) was to reveal the relationship of security psychological alienation among a sample of students from the University of Damascus, besides identifying function differences attributable to gender and educational level. The total study sample consisted of (370) male and female students where the most important results are as follows: There is an average of existence of alienation and psychological security with presence of negative correlation between alienation and psychological security, and significant differences in the sense of security which is due to the level of education for the benefit of graduate students.

### **3. Methodology and Procedures**

This study is based on the descriptive - correlative approach using the questionnaire as an instrument to gather information for its appropriateness of this approach to the nature of the study and its objectives.

#### *3.1 Population of the Study*

The total study community is (2061) boys and girls who attend kindergartens and primary schools in the district of Bayader in Amman and the central Jordan Valley, who have attained the age of 5-7 and 8-10 years.

#### *3.2 Sample of the Study*

The sample of the study consisted of 207 boys and girls, selected randomly.

Table 1 shows the sample according to the study variables.

Table 1. Members of the sample according to the variables of the study

	The Variable	The Number	The percentage
The Gender	Male	111	53.6%
	Female	96	46.40%
	The Total	207	100%
The Age	5-7	100	48.3%
	8-10	107	51.7%
	The Total	207	100%
The Location	The Capital	87	42%
	Ghor Central Valleys	120	58%
	The Total	207	100%

### 3.3 Instruments of the Study

Literature theory and scales of the previous topics of abuse were referred to such as: Scale of Mukhaimar and Abdul-Razzaq (2004), Assal (2003) where the standard includes two scales, one of them was for the father while the other one was for the mother in which every image consisted of (11) paragraphs as well as two dimensions for physical and emotional abuse. In addition to the scales used in the subject of psychological security measuring such as (Kerns et al., 2001) and Mukhaimar (2003), and Shakir (2005) scales. The scale also includes an image of the mother and the other one for the father where the scale consists from 30 items 15 ones for each image.

responses to the terms of the two scales during the three-estimation scale (three degree s agree, neutral or do not know two degree s, I do not agree one degree) on the basis of these grades means were adopted to estimate the psychological security abuses of the child.

3-2.34 Mean indicates a high degree of abuse and security.

2.33-1.67 Mean indicates a medium degree of abuse and security.

1.66-and less Mean indicates a low degree of abuse and security.

### 3.4 Validity of the Instruments

Validity of the instrument was measured by using the following:

1) Apparent Validity: through display on the two scales (10) of arbitrators experienced and competent some paragraphs were modified on the basis of their observations.

2) Practical Validity: These two scales as well as Mukhaimar and Abdul-Razzaq (2004) for the abuse, and Mukhaimar (2003) for the security of psychotherapy were applied on a sample of children consisting from (30) children where the correlation coefficient between the degree s of scales of abuse was (0.836) while the degree s of scales security was (0.871)

### 3.5 Reliability of the Instruments

The two scales reliability was computed for the two instruments as follows:

1) Reoccurrence Method: The two scales consistency was implemented on (30) children sample in addition to, it was repeated again after (12) days on the same sample in which the correlation coefficient of abuse scale was (8870), while the psychological security was (0.901).

2) Cronbach (alpha) Method: the correlation coefficient of abuse scale was (8270) and (9510) for psychological security with taking into consideration that all the correlation of the consistency and validity are appropriate for the purposes of the scientific research.

### 3.6 Procedures of the Study

The following procedures are followed for the implementation of the study:

- Reviewing the theoretical literature in this field.
- Identifying the community study.

- Preparation of the two scales in their initial image.
- Presenting the scales on (10) Arbitrators.
- Conducting a survey study for confirming the validity and the consistency of the two scales.
- Reviewing the two scales in the light of the results of the survey study based on observations of the arbitrators.
- Processing the data statistically.
- Concluding and interpreting the results and making recommendations based on them.

### 3.7 Statistical Analysis

The researcher used the following statistical analysis

- Means to determine degrees of parental abuse, and psychological security.
- “T” Test is used to detect differences in the function degrees of abuse and psychological security attributable to the child’s gender, age and place of residency.
- Pearson correlation coefficient to reveal the nature of the relationship between parental abuse and psychological security for ensuring the validity and the consistency of the two scales.
- Cronbach coefficient (alpha) is used to ensure the consistency of the two scales.

## 4. Results of the Study and its Discussion

The answer to the first question, which states: “What is the degree of parental abuse of the child?”

To answer this question is the use of means in Table 2 illustrates this:

Table 2. Means of the degrees for parental child abuse

Abuser	Type of Abuse	The Mean	The Degree
The Father	Physical	1.61	Low
	Emotional	1.85	Medium
	The Total	1.73	Medium
The Mother	Physical	1.60	Low
	Emotional	1.82	Medium
	The Total	1.71	Medium

Table 2 shows that the degree of the father abuse against the child was (1.72) degree which was greater than the degree of the mother’s abuse against the child was (1.71) degrees, while the emotional abuse is higher than physical abuse, where the degree of emotional abuse was medium, and physical abuse was low, while the total degree of the abuse of both father and mother was medium. The result means that children are subjected to abuse from the parents, and they are more suffering from emotional abuse, which cause hurts and a psychological disturbance in themselves which are perhaps more than physical abuse as this is illustrated by studies conducted (Arab, 2011; Deliramish, 2008) that the child abuse damage of his mental health. This result is consistent, in terms of the fact that the emotional abuse of a child the highest degree of physical abuse, with studies Obaidan (2010) and the Arab (2011) and Anani et al. (2012). It differs with other studies which have made it clear that children are more vulnerable to physical abuse, emotional abuse. And agree this result, in terms of the degree of abuse college with a study Anani et al. (2012). The abuse was high, and perhaps this explains the difference between the two results differing time period in which the government studies, and change thought and behavior across time.

The answer to the second question, which states: “Are there any statistical significant differences in parental abuse variable depending on the gender of the child?”

To answer this question “T” Test was used as this is illustrated in Table 3:

Table 3. “T” Test results for significance differences in parental abuse, according to the gender of the child variable

Parents	Gender Abuse	Male	Female	“T” Value	Level of Significance
The Father	Physical	1.39	1.86	-7.12	0.000 *
	Emotional	1.56	2.18	-7.32	0.000 *
	The Total	1.48	2.08	-7.37	0.000 *
The Mother	Physical	1.38	1.85	-7.02	0.000 *
	Emotional	1.53	2.16	-7.50	0.000 *
	The Total	1.46	2.00	-7.45	0.000 *
The Father & the Mother	The Total Degree	1.47	2.01	-7.56	0.000 *

Table 3 shows that there are statistical significant differences in parental abuse (father and mother) physical, emotional and total degree attributed to the gender of the child toward females. This means that females are more vulnerable to abuse than males. This result is interpreted in the light of the prevailing culture, whereas the focus is on disciplining the female child more than the male child, and this is centered in her behavior evaluation in various possible ways even if the beatings and insults. This result is in consistent with the study conducted by the following researchers: Benflis (2010) and Anani et al. (2012), and it is varied with the study conducted by Assal (2003), which showed that there were no statistical significant differences attributable to gender, it is also different from the two studies conducted by the following: UNICEF (2003) and Abdul-Majid (2004), in which they concluded that males are more vulnerable to abuse than females.

The answer to the third question, which states: “Are there any statistical significant differences in parental abuse variable depending on the age of the child?”

To answer this question “T” test was used as illustrated in Table 4:

Table 4. “T” Test results for significance differences in parental abuse, depending on the child’s age variable

The Parents	Abuse Gender	5-7	8-10	“T” Value	Level of Significance
The Father	Physical	1.62	1.59	0.409	0.683
	Emotional	1.90	1.81	0.973	0.332
	The Total	1.76	1.70	0.737	0.462
The Mother	Physical	1.66	1.55	1.54	0.123
	Emotional	1.89	1.76	1.36	0.175
	The Total	1.77	1.68	1.46	0.144
The Father & The Mother	The Total Degree	1.77	1.68	1.12	0.263

Table 4 shows that there are no statistical significant differences in the degree of parental abuse (mother and father) physical, emotional and total degree attributed to the age of the child as this result refers to the fact that the study sample belonged to the age group and only one childhood stage and convergent years (5-10), it also may refer to the standards of the dominant culture, which emphasizes discipline that the child in this period is exposed to beating and rebuking, therefore the child in the mentioned period is stationed about himself, as well as his impairing his ability to put himself anywhere other leading to the difference in point of view of an adult and the consequent behaviors which are not pleased the adult and that pushing them to abuse him in this young age.

This result is in consistent with the study conducted by Assal (2003) and it is varied with the study by Anani et al. (2012), which showed that there were statistical significant differences in the degree of physical abuse and total degree attributed to the children age (10-11), these differences refer to the age between the two samples, where

the sample in the current study were younger than the study conducted by Anani (2012), and may vary the treatment of parents of children who are after the tenth for younger children, and although it could be argued that it is useful to conduct new studies about the abuse and its relationship to the child's age.

The answer to the fourth question, which states: "Are there any statistical significant differences in parental abuse, depending on the variable place of residence?"

To answer this question "T" Test was used and the Table 5 illustrates this:

Table 5. T" Test results for significance differences in parental abuse, according to the to the variable place of residency

The parents	The Abuse Place of Residency	Amman	Ghor Valleys	"T" Value	Level of Significance
The Father	Emotional	1.26	1.86	10.55-	0.000*
	The Total	1.41	2.17	10.30	0.000*
The Mother	Physical	1.34	2.02	10.64-	0.000*
	Emotional	1.24	1.87	10.74-	0.000*
	The Total	1.39	2.14	9.90-	0.000*
The Father & The Mother	The Total Degree of the Abused		2.00	10.55-	0.000*

\* Statistical significant at the level (0.05) and less.

Table 5 shows that there are no statistical significant differences in the degree of parental abuse (mother and father) physical, emotional and total degree attributed to place of residency at Central Valleys of Ghor as this result refers to the fact that the fathers of the children in this area more abuser to their children from the age group (5-10) years comparing to fathers in City of Amman treating to their children from the same age group, This study result is based on the fact that parents in the capital, are more educated with better income which affects the degree of insults to their children, as the research has shown in a study conducted by (Alghareeb, 2008) which indicates that the lower the father's education and economic level, the degree of the child abuse shall be more. Due to the lack of studies which illustrates the impact of the abuse on the place of residency (according to researcher knowledge) there is an urgent need for conducting further studies in this area.

The answer to the sixth question, which states: "What degree of psychological security of the children?" To answer this question "Means" were used as illustrated in Table 6:

Table 6. Degree of psychological security among the children

The Security Source	The Mean	The Degree
The Father	2.32	Medium
The Mother	2.46	High
The Total	2.39	High

Table 6 indicates that the psychological security degree (The Father's Image) for the child was (2.32) while the psychological security degree (The Mother's Image) for the child was (2.39) as well as the total degree of the security was (2.39). This result is based on the fact that the mother is closer to her children and more compassionate and sympathy for them comparing to their father who is outside home for long period of time either at work or with his friends besides he is more severe in treating his children which affects their sense of psychological security. The result of the security total degree is related to increasing of the child security for his mother comparing the child security feeling towards his father was medium and it was not law. This result is based on the fact that even the fathers are sometimes tough with their children. This is of such concern for disciplining of their children, besides, they are keen to take care of their children and inform them warmth of family, security and peace of mind as much as possible.

This result is in consistent with the study by Gharayba (2004), and it is varied with the study of Aqra'(2005), which showed security degree among the students of the University of Alnajah was low, it is also varied with the study Nu'aysa (2012) where it show that the degree of security among the students of the University of Damascus was medium, the difference between the current study and the previous two studies to the disorder in the political and social development in both Nablus and Damascus, which adversely affect the feeling of security among the citizens of the two cities.

Answer the sixth question, which states: "Are there any statistical significant differences in psychological security variable depending on the child gender?"

To answer this question "T" Test was used as shown in the Table 7:

Table 7. Analysis of the results of "T" Test for the significance differences in psychological security depending on the gender variable

The Parental The Gender	The Male	The Female	"T" Value	Level of Significance
	The Father	2.63	1.97	10.17
The Mother	2.60	2.31	5.65	0.000 *
The Total	2.62	2.14	8.84	0.000 *

\* Statistical significant at the level of (0.05) and less.

Table 7 shows that there are statistical significant differences in psychological security (The Father and The Mother Images) attributed to the child gender towards males, and this means that males have more a sense of security than females, the result is due to the parents care about their female child, even when she is in this small age where they express their fear, and eagerness to teach her discipline and social values where shall be abused by them, if she non-compliance with the orders of the parents, which may raise their feelings of anxiety and insecurity more than a male child.

This result is consistent partly with a study conducted by Mukhaimar (2003) which is the concern of the manifestations of insecurity. It is also a consistent with the study conducted by (Zani et al., 2001) but, it is varied with the study of Sherritt and Abdullah (2006), which made it, is clear that there are differences in the security function attributed to the direction of the female gender. The listed these differences between the current result and the previous study to the differences in the age of the two samples where the study was conducted, "Sherritt and Abdullah "on both adolescents and adults.

Answer to the seventh question, which states: "Is there any statistical significant difference in the degree of psychological security variable depending on the age of the child?"

To answer this question "T" Test was used as illustrated in the Table 8:

Table 8. "T" Test of the significant differences in the degree of psychological security variable depending on the child's age

The Age The Parents	5-7	8-10	"T" Value	Level of Significance
	The Father	2.39	2.27	1.54
The Mother	2.50	2.43	1.11	0.269
The Total	2.44	2.35	1.46	0.145

Table 8 shows that there are no statistical significant differences in a sense of security (The father and the mother images) due to the age of the child; this means that the children in the ages of (5-10) are alike in the degree of psychological sense of security. This result in light of the fact that children study sample belonged to the age

group are similar (5-10) where there are similar in many of the behaviors and reactions, as this result is based on the fact that parents give their children the love and security in these years, where they are small -old even abused them sometimes. Additionally, this study is varied with the study findings conducted by Sherritt and Abdullah (2006), which explained that there are significant differences in the psychological security for the benefit of older These are the differences between the two results to differences in the age of the two samples, the study sample of Sherritt and Abdullah consisted of children, adolescents and adults, but there is an urgent need for conducting further studies to test the impact of the child's age on the psychological sense of security.

The answer the eighth question that states: "Is there any statistical significant difference in the level at ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) in the degree of psychological security variable depending on the place of residency of the child?"

To answer this question "T" Test was used as shown at the Table 9:

Table 9. "T" Test results significance differences in degree of psychological security depending on the variable place of residency

The Place of Residency	The Parents	Amman	The Central Ghor	"T" Value	Level of Significance
The Father		2.48	2.21	3.37	0.001*
The Mother		2.63	2.34	5.60	0.001*
The Total		2.55	2.28	4.73	0.000*

\* Statistical significant at the level of (0.05) and less.

Table 9 indicated that there are statistical differences significance in the degree of psychological security due to the variable of residency toward the children in the central Ghor Valley which means that the children of the capital, have more a sense of security than the children in the central Ghor Valley which may be due to the fact that parents in the city of Amman, are more educated and they have also more income, besides they are familiar with the needs of their children than parents of children comparing to the parents at the central Ghor Valley which is reflected on the sense of security while this study findings are varied from the results of the study conducted by Alaqra' (2005), which showed that there were no differences in security due to the place of residency, due to the lack of studies in this field, only the study of Alaqra' (2005) (Based on the Researcher's knowledge), but it is important to conduct further studies regarding the impact of a changing place of the residency on the psychological sense of security.

The answer to the ninth question that states: "What is the nature of the relationship between parental abuse of the child and his psychological security?"

To answer this question Pearson correlation coefficient was used, as illustrated in the Table 10:

Table 10. Results of Pearson coefficient regarding the nature of the relationship between parental abuse and psychological security of the child

The Abuse	Type of Abuse	The Correlation Coefficient	Level of Significance
The Father	Physical	0.732	0.000*
	Emotional	0.767	0.000*
	Total	0.764	0.000*
The mother	Physical	-0.729	0.000*
	Emotional	-0.768	0.000*
	Total	-0.764	0.000*
The Total Degree		- 0.777	0.000*

\* Statistical significant at the level (0.01) and less.

Table 10 indicates that there is significance negative correlation between parental emotional and physical abuse (The father and the mother abuses) and the total degree comparing to and psychological security of the child. This means that children who are the most vulnerable to abuse have less psychological sense of security as shown in studies conducted by (Shakir, 2005; Alshheri, 2006; Elhier et al., 2004; Deliramish, 2009) that the abuse is generated by a child's sense of anxiety, confusion and poor mental health.

#### 4.1 Recommendations and the Proposed Researches

Based on the results of this study, the researcher provided the following recommendations:

- Conducting researches on the quality and quantity about abuse issue in different cultures.
- Conducting further studies regarding the impact of age, gender and place of residency in children abuse.
- Holding training programs to lessen the negative effects on the child abuse.
- Educating parents about all kinds of abuse consequences on the child, through seminars, parent councils and the media.
- Concentration on the economic and social development for comprehensive Arab society as radical and strategic solutions for many of the problems that such communities suffer from.

#### References

- Abdul-Razzaq, K. (2009). The real impact of the method of treatment in the development of psychological security of the students of the preparatory stage. *The magazine opening*, 38, 343-368.
- Abu Rayash, H., Abdul Hakim, A., Umaymah, & Sharif, S. (2006). *Abuse and the Gender*. Amman Dar Al Fiker.
- Alaqra, I. (2005). *Psychological sense of security and influenced by some variables among the students of Al-Najah University*. MS: Najah National University.
- Alghareeb, A. (2008). Characteristics of social, economic and cultural rights of the families of children exposed to abuse in Saudi society. *Journal of Arab Children*, 9(34), 33-82.
- Al-Saud, M. (2005). Child abuse, types, causes and characteristics, Naïf Arab University for Security Sciences. Saudi Arabia, Riyadh.
- Al-Saud, M. (2005). *Child abuse, types, causes and characteristics*, Naïf Arab University for Security Sciences. Saudi Arabia, Riyadh.
- Alshheri, A. (2006). *Psychological characteristics, social and membership for children exposed to abuse*. MA: Naïf Arab University for Science in Riyadh.
- Anani, H. (2011). *Development of concepts of social, ethical and religious in early childhood*. Amman: Dar Al Fiker.
- Anani, H., Khalidi, A., & Yamani, A. (2012). Parental abuse, physical and emotional relationship with the child, gender and age among a sample of students in primary schools in the city of Amman. *Jerusalem Journal*, 2(26), 217-245.
- Arab, A. (2011). Violence against children from the viewpoint of parents in the rural community, research Yarmouk. *A series of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2(27), 1723-1778.
- Benflis, K. (2010). Practice forms of abuse of children within the family and its relationship to realize the concepts of self and family, a field study. *Studies of Humanity*, 76, 2-23.
- Cirgus, J. (2010) *Barriers preventing the reporting of child abuse and neglect: A comparison of school social workers in public and private setting* (Ph. D thesis, Walden University).
- Contreas, J., & Kernes, K. (2000). Emotion regulation: Explaining links Between Parents. Child attachment and peer relationships. In K. Kearns, J. Contreas, & M. Bernett (Eds.), *Family and peers linking two social world* (pp. 1-25). N.Y.: Proeger publisher.
- Ghraibeh, A. (2004). *Psychological security and its relationship with some variables among the students of Al al-Bayt University*. MA: College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Al al-Bayt.
- Hussein, T. (2008). *Child abuse, theory and treatment*. Amman: Dar Al Fiker.
- Ibrahim, N. (2002). *Mis-treatment of adolescents and their relationship to the level of innovative abilities* (Ph.D. thesis Graduate Institute of Childhood, Ain Shams University).
- Melhem, S. (2010). *Developmental Psychology*. Amman: Dar thought.

- Mukhaimar, I. (2003). Questionnaire psychological security for children. *The Anglo Egyptian Bookshop* 83, 467-487. Cairo.
- Nu'aysa, R. (2012). Psychological alienation and its relationship to the psychological security, a field study on a sample of students from the University of Damascus, residents of the city's university. *The University of Damascus magazine*, 28(3), 113-158.
- Obaidan, I. (2010). *Domestic violence and its relationship to efficient and self-psychological security among the students of the University of Tabuk*.
- Shakir, Z. (2005). *Measurement of psychological security*. Library Egyptian Renaissance.
- Sherritt, A. (2006). Psychological Security, its dimensions and its determinants from childhood to adulthood. *Journal of Education contemporary*, 73, 77-178.
- Shibani, B. (2005). Children Reorganization of the behavior of the physical and psychological treatment. *Journal of Human Sciences*, 10, 92-131.
- The Holy Quran.
- UNICEF office. (2003). *The World's Children: UNICEF office for the Middle East and North Africa*.
- Zani, B., Cicognani, E., & Albanisi, C. (2001). Adolescents' sense of community and Feeling of Unsafty in the Urbun Environment. *Journal of Community and Applied Psychology*, 11, 475-489. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/casp.647>
- Zayeid, S. (2007). Psychological security and achievement motivation. *Journal of the Faculty of Arts*, 83, 467-487.

### Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>).