



The Lebanese Institute For
Democracy And Human Rights (LIFE)

Obstacles to economic

**empowerment of wives of detainees and
missing persons**

**“A field study on a sample in the
northern regions of Syria”**





Contents

Chapter One: The study methodological framework:	3
First - The research problem and queries	3
Second - The importance of research	4
Third - Research objectives	5
Fourth - The field research methodology	5
Study methodology	5
Fields of study	6
Fifth - Research concepts	6
Chapter Two: the field study	7
First: Characteristics of the study sample	7
A - Wives of detainees or missing persons	7
B- The number of children	8
C- Age groups	9
D – Being independent or live with family members	10
E- Type of residence	11
F- Standards of living	12
G- Educational level:	13
Second - Social and psychological problems following the arrest and loss of the husband.	14
A- Problems from the social environment:	14
B- Daily personal actions after the arrest and loss of the husband	16
Second - Obstacles to economic empowerment	19
a- Social obstacles	19
b - Family obstacles	20
c - Economic and professional obstacles	21
d - Personal obstacles	23
Findings:	24
About the findings:	26
Recommendations:	28
Annexes	29
Survey no.	29
Open-ended question:	32





Executive summary:

This study aims at identifying the most important obstacles that wives of detainees and missing persons may face in economic empowerment within the local communities in which they are located.

For the purpose of this study, (64) wives of detainees and missing persons were interviewed; as a field-based surveys, specially designed for this purpose, were adopted with the aim of revealing the social, economic and psychological/personal obstacles facing the wives of the detainees or the missing persons in rehabilitation and finding a job (economic empowerment).

Accordingly, the study reached a number of results, which were connected with the social, economic and psychological factors that constituted an obstacle to the involvement of the wives of detainees and missing persons in the local labour market, starting with the value system, customs, norms and behaviours prevailing in the local communities that originally view women working outside the home suspiciously, especially those whose husbands were detained.

Therefore, it is not possible to talk about the relationship of the local community with the wives of the detainees and the missing persons in isolation from all the value system (customs and traditions) prevailing in such communities in which the women who were interviewed for the purpose of the study are present with regard to economic empowerment. Moreover, the results of the surveys were discussed; as results-based proposals were made that might help empower the wives of detainees and missing persons.



The first chapter

The study methodological framework

First – The research problem and queries

There is a consensus by researchers, whatever their social and humanitarian specializations are on the negative effects left by wars and internal military conflicts in society, especially on marginalized and vulnerable social groups, including women. Of course, the Syrian war is no exception, especially since a war broke out there following the outbreak of the Syrian revolution in 2011, for which vandalism, destruction, killing, forcibly displacement and deportation people are prominent features.

Despite this is a serious phenomenon and is associated with Syrians, and despite the Syrian women are the ones who are suffering greatly from the armed conflicts, the Syrian women in general and the wives of the detainees and the missing persons in particular remained far from the fields of study and academic diagnosis, being the most vulnerable group and the one most affected by the social changes that occur in any society, especially in times of war. In fact, women whose husbands were either arrested or forcibly disappeared, are forced to play the roles of a mother and a father at the same time, especially with regard to securing the necessary living conditions for family members, including children, especially when such women do not work not qualified neither; therefore, such group of people needs educational and social qualifying and training courses for rehabilitation in order to be economically empowered. Based on the foregoing, the study problem was determined by answering the following questions:

- 1- What is the economic situation for the wives of detainees and missing persons in northern Syria?
- 2- What are the obstacles facing the economic empowerment of women (the wives of the detainees and the missing persons) in northern Syria?
- 3- What are the necessary proposals for the economic empowerment of women in northern Syria?



Second - The importance of research

The importance of the study in general stems from the importance of its main topic that addresses an issue that has become clear to the Syrian society with all its bodies and organizations. Moreover, the study's topic is important due to the seriousness of the situation experienced by normal women (the wives of detainees or missing persons) during wartime in its various forms or social and living forms.

The study's importance also urges that it is significant to work on shedding light on the danger of war on women, and its negative repercussions on all aspects of their lives: (social, educational, economic, health, and psychological).

Highlighting the effects of armed conflicts on women contributes greatly to the development of mechanisms to qualify them in terms of their involvement in the labour market. This also helps to enable women to become responsible persons, and thus they will protect themselves, their children and their families and avoid further marginalization, falling into poverty, and sliding into criminality.

Third - Research objectives

For achieving its purpose in an accurate scientific manner, any study should define a set of objectives; therefore, the objectives of the study come according to the following points:

1. Show the social and personal obstacles and reasons that play the role, as an independent variable in economic disempowerment.
2. Identifying the requirements of Syrian women (wives of detainees and missing persons) in order to qualify and obtain a job opportunity, i.e., the economic empowerment.



Fourth - The field research methodology

Study methodology

The study uses both qualitative and quantitative research methods, through the design of an electronic questionnaire that includes quantitative and qualitative questions directed to 64 women.

The study uses both qualitative and quantitative research methods, through an e-questionnaire that includes quantitative and qualitative questions. Such a method in surveying is adopted in this study as it contributes to reaching a sample of Syrian women (wives of detainees and missing persons in various regions in northern Syria), and accordingly, 64 women were reached.

Fields of study

- a- The geographical zone: It is determined by the areas that have been out of the control of the regime in northern Syria.
- b- The target population: the Syrian woman (the wives of the detainee or the missing persons) from the various segments in the geographical zone covered by the study.
- c- The time frame: It is defined as the period between October and November 2022.



Fifth - Research concepts

A- The concept of empowerment: Empowerment is defined as “providing individuals with tools, knowledge, skills, creating motivations and a sense of confidence, which are vital factors to enable people to make judgments and make decisions based on the available skills and capabilities. ¹ “

B- Women's empowerment can be defined to promoting women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others, especially men² .

C- Women's economic empowerment (WEE): Can be defined as “adopting all possible policies and taking all necessary measures to eradicate poverty, remove its causes, and mitigate its effects on society as a whole and on women in particular, within the framework of integrated development that takes the principle of self-reliance whenever possible. ³ ”

D- Procedural definition: By economically empowering women (the wife of a detainee or a missing person) we mean the following:

- 1- Women's ability to be self-reliant.
- 2- Providing women with the skills and knowledge needed to compete equitably in markets through training courses.
- 3- Providing job opportunities for women that generate a stable income.

Procedurally - Economic Empowerment: Supporting women to develop their knowledge and skills, so that their self-confidence increases and they are able to access decent job opportunities that achieve financial stability and have greater control over their resources and choices in life.

1- Abbott , J. Sharing the city London. Londonm , Earth com. Publication LTDμ.2000.

2 - Ahmed Abdel-Fattah Nagy, Empowering Marginalized Groups from the Perspective of Social Service, Foundations and Principles - Methods and Directions, Alexandria, Al-Hadiq University Office, 2014.

3- Shaimaa Moawad Abdel Samie, The Role of NGOs in the Economic Empowerment of Women, Journal of the College of Social Work for Social Studies and Research, Fayoum University, Issue thirteen.



The second chapter

the field study

First: Characteristics of the study sample

A - Wives of detainees or missing persons

The study sample targeted wives of missing persons at a rate of 61% compared to 39% in the category of wives of detainees. This is an indication that the security intelligence of the Syrian regime conceals information about the wives and families of the detainees and about their personal status, whether they are alive or not. In fact, this is what causes uncertainty in terms of social status; as the detainees and missing persons' wives do not know if they are still married or have become widows; therefore, these wives need to know if they have the right to remarry. Inheritance as well, is another problem faces these wives in addition to the rest of the legal problems that they may face. (See Table No. 1)

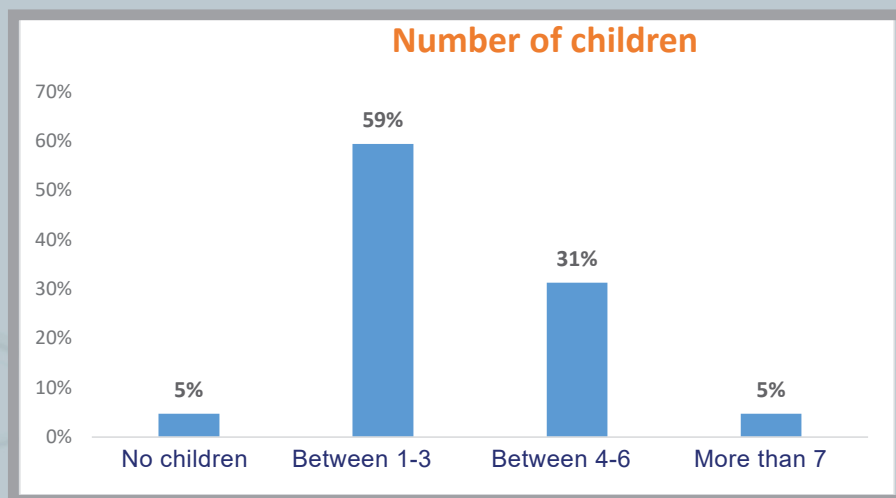
Figure No. (1) The percentage of wives of detainees and missing persons



B- The number of children

It was found from the interviews that most of the wives of the missing and detained persons have children with a percentage of 59%, ranging from a child to 3 ones. Wives who have between 4 to 6 children come next by 31%, then 5% who have more than 7 children, and 5% who also have no children at all. This result is an indication of the need to pay more attention to the families of the wives of missing persons and detainees and to qualify them to continue proper family care for their children in the future (see Table 2).

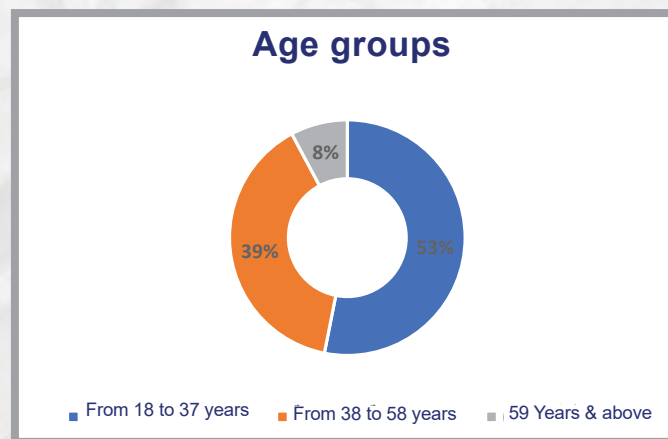
Figure No. (2) The percentage of children of wives of detainees and missing persons



C- Age groups

Field data showed that the study sample was concentrated in the age group (18-37) by 53%, the age group (38-58) by 39%, and the age group (59 and over) by 8%. This indicates that most of the wives of detainees and the missing persons are young; therefore, the cognitive and social capabilities are available for training and work, and this means that the need to focus on rehabilitating them and transferring them to be active social groups in society. (See Figure 3).

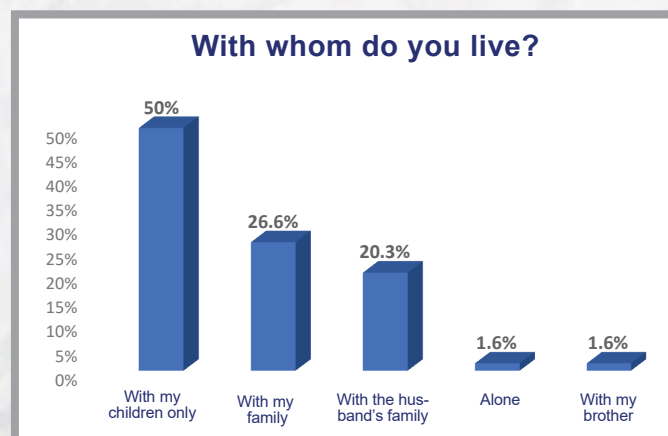
Figure No. 3 The age groups of wives of detainees and missing persons



D – Being independent or live with family members

The results of the interviews showed that most of the study sample of the wives of missing persons and detainees reside with their children by 50%, with their families by 26.6%, and with the husband's family by 20.3%, compared to 1.6% those who live alone and the same percentage for those who live with siblings. As a result, this is an indication of the commitment of the wives of the missing and detained persons to their families and their children, according to the prevailing value system in the local community, as well as the financial inability to have independent housing (see Figure 4)

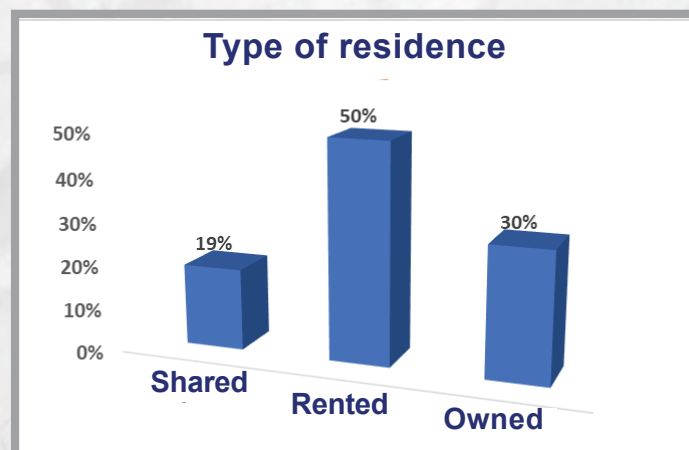
Figure No. 4 Shows with whom wives of detainees and missing persons live.



E- Type of residence

Through the interviews, it was found that half of the sample, 50%, live in rented housing, compared to 19%, who live in shared housing, and 30% in owned homes. This demonstrates the extent of the financial need of these families. This means that it is critical for this group of people to be rehabilitated in order to enable them find jobs, which, in turn, fills the financial need to pay house rents (see Figure 5).

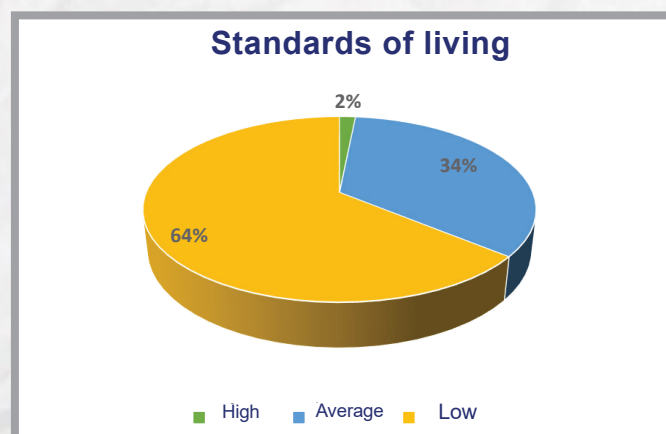
Figure 5 Type of residence



F- Standards of living

The results of the interviews showed that 64% of the sample had a low standard of living, followed by 34% with a medium level and 2% with a high standard of living from the point of view of the wives of the missing and detained persons. Results as such confirm the content of the Syrian and international research reports that say that more than 85% of the Syrians are below the poverty line. Ultimately, this indicates the importance of training and job creation for this social group (see Table 6).

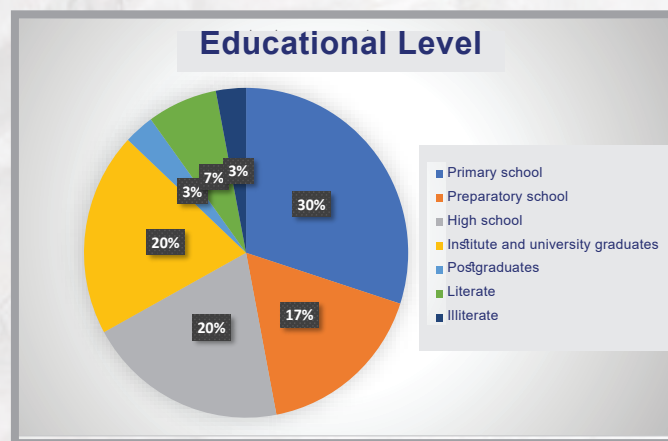
Figure No. 6 Standards of living for the wives of detainees and missing persons



G- Educational level:

The field results regarding the educational level of the wives of detainees and missing persons showed that 30% of primary school, 20% high school and the same percentage for the institute and university graduates. There are also 17% of preparatory school compared to 7% who are literate (reading and writing) and 3% of the respondents are post-graduates, in addition to 3% who are illiterate. Such results indicate the need to pay attention to education, as it was found that there is a high percentage for those who have low levels of education (see Figure 7).

Figure No. 7 The educational level of the wives of detainees and missing persons



Second - Social and psychological problems following the arrest and loss of the husband.

A- Problems from the social environment:

There are many problems faced by the wives of detainees and missing persons after the arrest and loss of their husbands, and they can be classified as follows:

- 1- The husband's family intervention in the daily life of the wife and her children.
- 2- Putting pressure by the husband's family to deprive her of the inheritance.
- 3- Difficulties related to finding job opportunities.
- 4- The negative view of the social environment while women leaving the house.



5- Difficulties related to raising children and securing their needs, in addition to playing a combined role (as a mother and father).

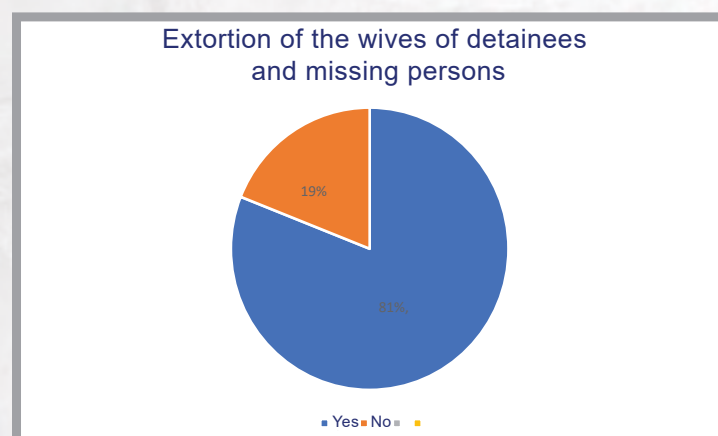
6- Parents' interference in girls' marriage.

One of the detainees' wives says: (As a result of my husband's huge amount of debts, I had to sell the house furniture, including electrical appliances, and I needed to grovel at the feet of others in order to secure a living for my children).

Some of these women were subjected to extortion in return for aid, at a rate of 81% of the sample, compared to 19% who were not exposed. Examples of the types and forms of extortion: insults and verbal abuses, bullying and harassment as well as hinting at sexual relations, or requesting marriage in exchange for childcare. However, some of these women said that the most dangerous request was for sex in exchange for providing them with work or in exchange for aid.

Moreover, there is false documentation of assistance that wives of detained or the missing persons did not receive from organizations specialized in providing aid and support.

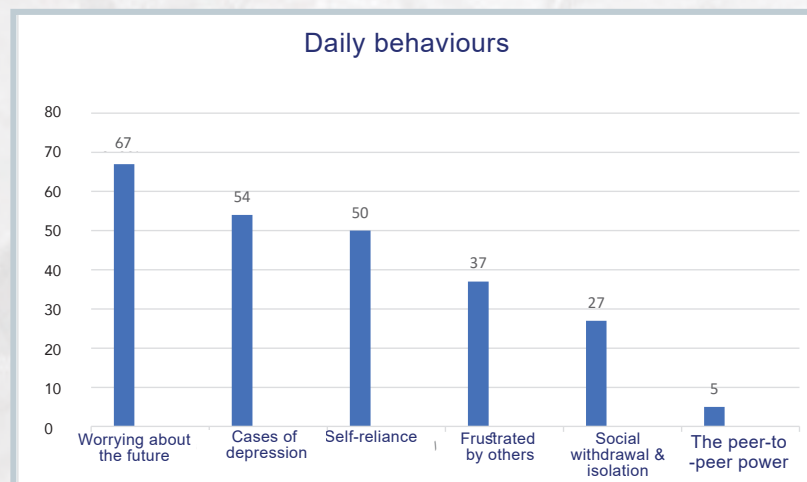
Figure 8 The percentage of women who have been subjected to extortion in daily life.



B- Daily personal actions after the arrest and loss of the husband

The daily personal behaviours of the wives of detainees and missing persons centered on worrying about the future by 67%, by 54% they lived in states of depression, by 37% reported severe mood swings and feel frustrated by the social environment (relatives, friends, neighbours, etc.), and social withdrawal and isolated by 27%. We found some strengths as 50% said they were self-reliant in everyday life.

Figure No 9 Daily behaviours of detained & missing persons' wives.

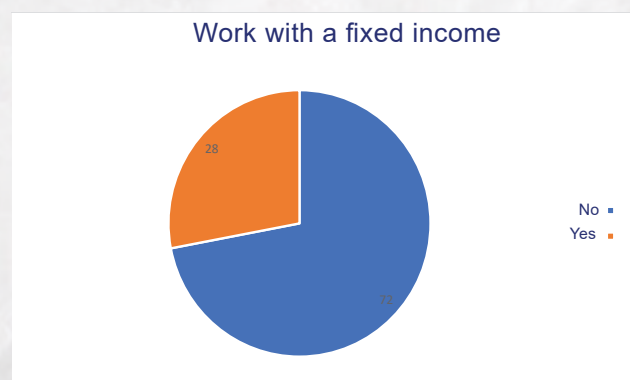


A - Work and its nature for the wives of detainees and missing persons

Interviews with the study sample showed that 28% of them work, compared to 72% who do not work. As for the nature of work, it was volunteering in psychological support organizations, teachers in schools, sewing clothes, home marketing, saleswoman in shops, and farm work.

As for the reasons for not working, as a high rate of 72%, it is the lack of job opportunities, in addition to the presence of children in the home, the parents' refusal of women's work, the lack of skills to work in specific professions, low wages, and others because they got older.

Figure No. 10 The percentage of wives of detainees & missing persons who work with a fixed income.



As for the nature of the training courses that were benefited by the wives of detainees and missing persons by 50%, they were related to sewing and handicrafts, clothing design, first aid and nursing, soap and detergent manufacturing, hairdressing, computer maintenance, and media.

Figure No. 11 The percentage of female beneficiaries from training courses

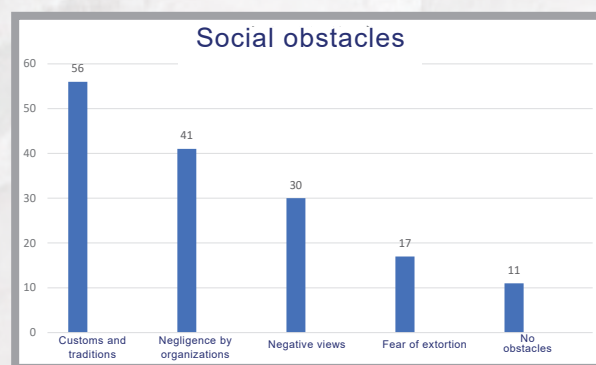


Second - Obstacles to economic empowerment

a- Social obstacles

The results of the interviews showed regarding the social obstacles facing the wives of detainees and missing persons, where the customs and traditions that stipulate the unwillingness of women to work outside the home by 56%, the lack of interest by specialized organizations and the local community in providing work opportunities for the wives of detainees and missing persons by 41%, 30% view suspiciously and have negative views about women's work, 17% concern about exploitation and extortion, and 11% said that there are no obstacles.

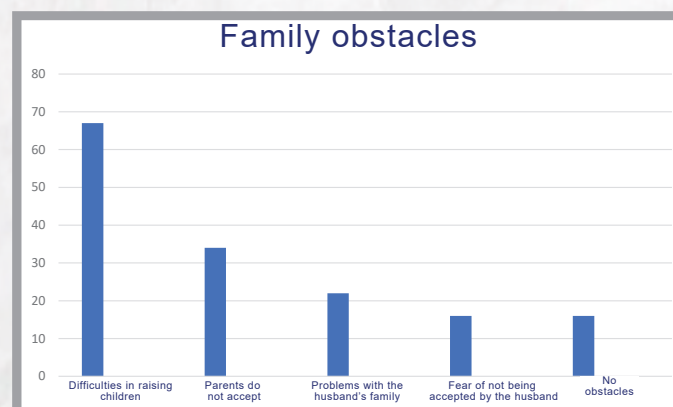
Figure No. 12 The social obstacles facing the wives of detainees and missing persons.



b - Family obstacles

The answers of the study sample regarding family constraints focused on the difficulty of raising children by 67%, the parents' lack of acceptance of women's work by 34%, and family problems with the husband's parents by 22%, in addition to 17% who said that there are no obstacles.

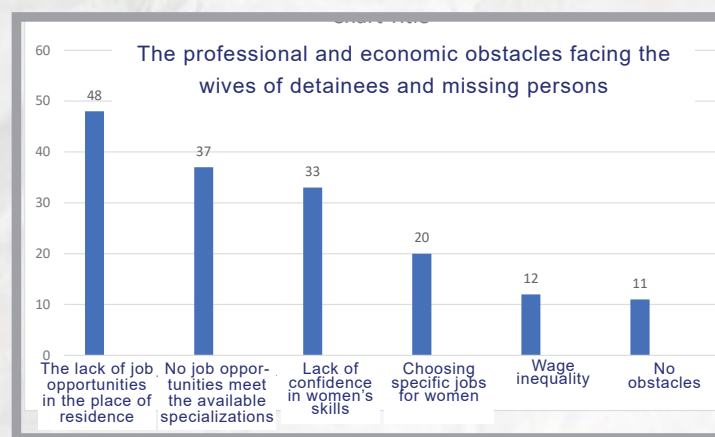
Figure No. 13 The family obstacles faced by the wives of detainees and missing persons



c - Economic and professional obstacles

The respondents focused on economic and professional constraints, with regard to the lack of job opportunities in the place of residence by 48%, the lack of job opportunities suitable for the available specializations by 37%, the lack of confidence in women's abilities and skills by 33%, choosing specific jobs for women such as nursing, teaching and sewing by 20%, wage inequality by 12%, and 11% reported that there are no obstacles.

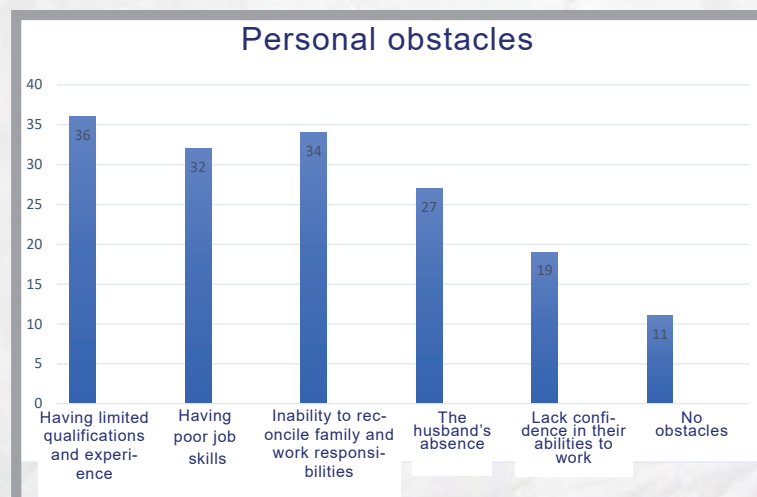
Figure No. 14 The professional and economic obstacles facing the wives of detainees and missing persons.



d - Personal obstacles

As for personal constraints, 36% said they had limited qualifications and experience, 32% said they had poor job skills, 34% emphasized the inability to reconcile family and work responsibilities, 27% said the reason was the husband's absence, 19% said they lack confidence in their abilities to work, and 19% said they were unable to work, as 11% said that there are no personal obstacles.

Figure 15 The personal obstacles faced by the wives of detainees and missing persons.



Findings:

1- With regard to the demographic characteristics of the wives of detainees and missing persons from the research sample, the results of the interviews showed that the wives of the missing persons came at a rate of 61% compared to 39% in the category of wives of detainees. It was also found that most of the wives of the missing persons and detainees have children, with a rate of 59% who have between (1 -3) Children, followed by 31% who have (4-6) children, 5% who have more than 7 children, and 5% who do not have children at all. The field data also showed that the study sample was concentrated in the age group (18-37) by 53%, the age group (38-58) by 39%, and the age group (59 and above) by 8%. As for the matter of with whom wives of detainees and missing persons live, the results of the interviews showed that most of the study sample live with children by 50% and with the family by 26.6%, with the husband's family by 20.3%, compared to 1.6% who live alone, and the same percentage for others residing with a brother. Through interviews, it was found that half of the sample, 50%, resides in rental housing, compared to 19%, who resides in shared housing, and a percentage of 30% in owned ones. As for the standards of living, the results of the interviews showed that 64% of the sample had lower standards of living, followed by 34% with a medium level and 2% with a high standards of living as viewed by the wives of the missing and detainees.

As for the educational level, the field results regarding the educational level of the wives of detainees and missing persons showed that 30% of primary school, 20% high school and the same percentage for the institute and university graduates. There are also 17% of preparatory school compared to 7% who are literate (reading and writing) and 3% of the respondents are post-graduates, in addition to 3% who are illiterate.

2- Regarding the problems they faced after the husband's arrest and others lost their husbands, there are many, notably; the husband's family intervention in the daily life of the wife and her children. Putting pressure by the husband's family to deprive her of the inheritance. Difficulties related to finding job opportunities. The negative view of the social environment while women leaving the house. Difficulties related to raising children and securing their needs, in addition to playing a combined role (as a mother and father). Parents' interference in girls' marriage. One of the detainees' wives says: (As a result of my husband's huge amount of debts, I had to sell the house furniture, including electrical appliances, and I needed to grovel at the feet of others in order to secure a living for my children).

Some of these women were subjected to extortion in return for aid, at a rate of 81% of the sample, compared to 19% who were not exposed. Examples of the types and forms of extortion: insults and verbal abuses, bullying and harassment as well as hinting at sexual relations, or requesting marriage in exchange for childcare. However, some of these women said that the most dangerous request was for sex in exchange for providing them with work or in exchange for aid.

3-The daily personal behaviours of the wives of detainees and missing persons centered on worrying about the future by 67%, by 54% they lived in states of depression, by 37% reported severe mood swings and feel frustrated by the social environment (relatives, friends, neighbours, etc.), and social withdrawal and isolated by 27%. We found some strengths as 50% said they were self-reliant in everyday life.



4- As for work and its nature for the wives of detainees and missing persons, interviews with the study sample showed that 28% of them work, compared to 72% who do not work. As for the nature of work, it was volunteering in psychological support organizations, teachers in schools, sewing clothes, home marketing, saleswoman in shops, and farm work.

As for the reasons for not working, as a high rate of 72%, it is the lack of job opportunities, in addition to the presence of children in the home, the parents' refusal of women's work, the lack of skills to work in specific professions, low wages, and others because they got older.

As for the nature of the training courses that were benefited by the wives of detainees and missing persons by 50%, they were related to sewing and handicrafts, clothing design, first aid and nursing, soap and detergent manufacturing, hair-dressing, computer maintenance, and media.

5- The results of the interviews showed regarding the social obstacles facing the wives of detainees and missing persons, where the customs and traditions that stipulate the unwillingness of women to work outside the home by 56%, the lack of interest by specialized organizations and the local community in providing work opportunities for the wives of detainees and missing persons by 41%, 30% view suspiciously and have negative views about women's work, 17% concern about exploitation and extortion, and 11% said that there are no obstacles.

6- As for the family obstacles, answers of the study sample regarding family constraints focused on the difficulty of raising children by 67%, the parents' lack of acceptance of women's work by 34%, and family problems with the husband's parents by 22%, in addition to 17% who said that there are no obstacles.

7- As for economic and professional obstacles, the respondents focused on economic and professional constraints, with regard to the lack of job opportunities in the place of residence by 48%, the lack of job opportunities suitable for the available specializations by 37%, the lack of confidence in women's abilities and skills by 33%, choosing specific jobs for women such as nursing, teaching and sewing by 20%, wage inequality by 12%, and 11% reported that there are no obstacles.

8- As for personal constraints, 36% said they had limited qualifications and experience, 32% said they had poor job skills, 34% emphasized the inability to reconcile family and work responsibilities, 27% said the reason was the husband's absence, 19% said they lack confidence in their abilities to work, and 19% said they were unable to work, as 11% said that there are no personal obstacles.



About the Findings:

Taking into account the results of the study, it was found that women who lose their husbands (either being arrested or forcibly disappeared) are exposed to great psychological pressure, because they assume new roles that are added to their usual ones, such as working inside and outside the home.

In fact, the new reality prevents these women from achieving a balance between the requirements of the complex social role in terms of their role as mothers, housemakers, or wives, and the roles they play outside the home as workers or employees. As such, the psychological burden placed on these women increases. However, we notice that some of them are able to face such hardships and consequently succeed in overcoming them. This, of course, encourages them to reintegrate into the local community, while others, who fail to perform these roles, and as a result such a failure would probably push them to fail in performing their own original role adequately, which, in turn, causes some social problems with their immediate social surroundings.

Against the backdrop of such data, the family's living standards in general, and women in particular, suffered a certain weakness as a result of arresting or missing their husbands, the most prominent manifestation of which was the increase in the percentage of women breadwinners in order to cover the deficit in the family income. Moreover, the cases of women's poverty increased to unprecedented rates, with the increasing number of detained or missing husbands in the local community. Many of these women have become unemployed or homeless at times due to the conditions of detention and the loss of husbands, which had clear and significant effects on the economic situation of women in general, and their rights and development status in particular.

Indicators of (women's empowerment) have declined with the increase in rates of (poverty, marginalization, disease, and unemployment) among women, who represent 49% of the total population in Syria. This decline included all Syrian women, especially the wives of detainees and missing persons. As such, the emergence of new phenomena, such as (families headed by women, the effect of poverty, the increase in women's unemployment).

In view of the heavy legacy generated by the loss of husbands, sufficient facilities should be provided for the women who lost their husbands so that these women can achieve their goals of providing for the family without being caught in a poverty trap and for some of them not to be forced to work in marginal jobs.

The study also showed that the communities in which the women of the targeted sample reside are male-dominated societies in which it is difficult to accept that a woman takes her own decision without the intervention of a man (father, father-in-law, brother-in-law, etc.) in her life because in most cases she is forced to stay at home to take care of children even if she supports her family. Such a woman must have a male reference from her family. Accordingly, she cannot take any decisions without referring to that reference. This requires civil society organizations to design flexible social educational programs that suit each community in order to raise awareness of the importance of women's participation in work outside the home and its necessity for livelihood. This also requires a gradual reduction of male social powers, especially with regard to the need for women to enter the labor market. There are also gender-related obstacles that are manifested in men's underestimation of women's ability to work outside the home, and the lack of appreciation of





working women's efforts by the surrounding community.

The above-mentioned is to be added to the fear of some women (wives of detainees and missing persons) of the husband's reluctance after returning to women joining the field of work and considering the husband as the decision-maker in women's work.

Recommendations:

1- Training in electronic and contemporary technological professions such as computer-based ones that can be performed at home.

2- Providing necessary services for working women, such as kindergartens and transportation.

3- Punishment of blackmailers and exploiters of working women.

4- Allocating a percentage of jobs and businesses for the wives of detainees and missing persons.

5-Designing educational programs for the families of wives of detainees and missing persons to raise awareness of the importance of enabling women (wives of detainees and missing persons) to engage in labour markets so that they become active members of the Syrian community.



Annexes

Survey no.

Social and personal obstacles facing the wives of detainees
and missing persons in economic empowerment:

A field study on a sample of wives of detainees and missing persons.

Questions

First - General information:

1. Age	1- (18-37) 2- (38-58) 3- (59 and above)	
2. Current place of residence, city/village		
3. Original place of residence		
4. Are you.....	1-detained person's wife? 2-disappeared person's wife?	
5. The number of children, if any		
6. With whom do you live now	1- With children only 2- With the husband's family 3-With my family 4- Others:	
7. Education level (which you have completed)	1- Illiterate 2- literate 1- Primary 2- Preparatory 3 Secondary 4- University - institute graduates 5- Post graduates	
8. The standards of living of the family in your opinion	1 - Low 2 - Average 3 - High	
9. With whom do you live?		



Second - Social conditions:

10.	What social problems did you face after your husband was arrested or disappeared?		
11.	What problems did you face raising your children after your husband was arrested or forcibly disappeared?		
12.	What are the living difficulties you faced as a result of your husband's arrest or forcibly disappearance?		
13.	Most of the people or organizations supported you after your husband was arrested or disappeared in order to provide you and your children with a better conditions?		
14.	Have you been exposed to any kind of extortion by people or organizations in order to receive assistance for you and your children?		
15.	If yes, describe this extortion:		

Third - Personal aspects:

16.	How would you describe your daily personal behaviour after your husband was arrested or forcibly disappeared? (more than one answer)		
	Social withdrawal		
	Worry about the future		
	Dare to express opinions		
	Self-reliance		
	Change in mood		
	Feeling of sympathy towards others		
	Frustrated by others		
	Cases of depression		
	Others:		
17.	Does this situation prevent you from finding a job or training for a specific profession?	1-Yes. 2-No.	
18.	In both cases, please describe to the researcher: Please explain in detail		



Fourth - About work obstacles

19.	Do you work with a fixed income?	1-Yes. 2-No.	
20.	Who do you work for, what is the nature of your work?		
21.	Why do not you work? Give reasons!		
22.	Have you benefited from previous training courses?	1-Yes. 2-No.	
23.	If yes, what is the nature of these training courses?		
24.	What are the social obstacles that prevent you from working as the wife of a detainee or missing person)? (You can choose more than one answer)	1- Rejection from the employer, thinking that you might cause him some problems as the wife of a detained or missing person. 2- Some customs and traditions that state that women are not obligated to work. 3- Gender discrimination in favor of males. 4- The local society's view of working women with negative suspicions, especially towards the wives of detained or missing husband. 5- The lack of social services provided to working women (lack of nurseries for children), as an example.	
		6- Lack of interest in the community and specialized organizations in conducting the necessary training to some works. 7- Fear of exploitation and extortion in all its forms by employers and middlemen. 8- There are no obstacles 9- Others:	
25.	What are the family obstacles that prevent you from working as the wife of a detained or missing person (multiple answers)?	1-The family's refusal to accept the wife's work. 2-Difficulties in raising children. 3-Family problems (with the family of the detained or missing husband). 4-Fear that the husband will not accept her work if he returns back home. 5-There are no obstacles 6-Others:	



26.	What are the economic obstacles that prevent you from working as the wife of a detained or missing person (multiple answers)?	1- Wages inequality (between men and women). 2- Choosing women for specific jobs (teaching, nursing). 3- Lack of confidence in the abilities and skills of women. 4- The lack of a job opportunity commensurate with my scientific specialization and job skills. 5- The lack of job opportunities in the current place of residence. 6- There are no obstacles 7- Others:	
27.	What are the personal obstacles facing your work as the wife of a detained or missing person (multiple answers)?	1- Lack of confidence in my ability to work. 2- The inability to reconcile my family and work responsibilities. 3- I have poor job skills. 4- My qualifications and experience are limited. 5- There is a physical disability that prevents me from working outside the home. 6- Because of my husband's absence as a result of detention or forcibly disappearance. 7- No obstacles. 8- Others:	
28.	In your opinion, how can these obstacles be overcome (what are the solutions?) Make some appropriate suggestions.		
29.	What are the fields available for the work of the wife of a detainee or a missing person in the labour market?		
30.	How can you develop your skills for work and what are the tools? (Make some appropriate suggestions).		

Open-ended question:

What are the social/family/personal obstacles that hinder the wives of detainees and missing persons to work and join training courses in specific professions, that were not included in the questionnaire?

