

## ***Priorities of Academic Research among Counseling Psychology Researchers in Palestinian Universities in Gaza Strip***

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### **Abstract**

The present study aimed to identify the reality of academic research in the field of psychological counseling carried out by professional researchers in psychological counseling departments in faculties of education, Gaza universities in Palestine in terms of: Community sections as subjects of research, and manifestations of personality development addressed by such research. It also endeavors to determine the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling as perceived by a random sample of counselors working in the field in addition to the extent of conformity between the reality of the distribution of psychological research carried out by professional researchers and the priorities set by the psychological counselors. Besides, the research attempts to put forth a proposal of priorities for future academic research in this realm. The study sample included all academic research in the field of psychological counseling published in refereed electronic journals of Al-Aqsa university, Al-Azhar university, and the Islamic University whose total number is (64) selected as a purposive sample. The findings of the study reveal that there are societal segments which are more researched by psychological counseling professional researchers such as : samples of children, adolescents and people with special needs, widows, whereas there are societal segments which are under-researched like politicians, clergy, criminals, the elderly, spinsters, people below the poverty line. Additionally, there are societal segments focused on by professional researchers a lot. These are presented in a descending order as follows:

The children, adolescents, and those with special needs. However, in terms of developmental aspects of , it has been reported that there are under-researched topics by professional researchers such as sexual and language development, whereas there are themes abundantly addressed by researchers like, those related to psychological development, and emotional growth, and mental and cognitive development. The results show that there is a big match between the priorities of counselors and the research done by professional researchers with respect to samples of children and adolescents and criminals in the society and that are research samples, which received too little attention as those of young people, prisoners and decision-makers and working women. Notwithstanding, other research samples did not receive due care from researchers as those of teenagers, widows, politicians and clerics, and the elderly. Additionally, the results indicated that there were aspects of personal growth, which gained less interest than they deserve such as the topics related to the ethical and moral growth, which received priority No. 1 in academic research in the field of psychological counseling as perceived by counselors.

**Key words:** the priorities of academic research - psychological counseling professional researchers.

### ***Introduction :***

Attention to academic research in general and educational research in particular in any country is measured by the size of the annual budget allocated to it; as such budget is one of the most important indicators of the progress of society, and is also considered a cultural function of the development and coping with scientific developments. In this connection, Al-Harthy (2011) points out that scientific research is an "investment", and not an academic luxury, and scientific and academic research in the Arab world will not thrive unless the huge imbalance that does not allow it to assume its real place to be one of the most important indicators of development and advancement is addressed.

The recent scientific renaissance is mainly dependent on the progress in the field of scientific research. In this regard, universities are considered the first custodial of academic and scientific research, especially in third world countries, including Palestine. Any follower of the educational march in the field of higher education in Palestine readily discovers that it is far behind its counterpart in the neighboring Arab countries due to the Israeli occupation of Palestine (Awadallah, .2014).

With the steady increase in the number of higher education institutions in Palestine, it has become necessary to dedicate more attention, care and focus on scientific research and direct it to attain the goals of the Palestinian nation, and make it an important pillar of the progress and development in its quest for free and dignified life like any other nation of the world.

Scientific research has soared due the increase in the numbers of Palestinian universities and their development with the advent of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994. In these universities independent

deanships were created for academic research and graduate studies, and the issuance of refereed journals, and activating the promotion system for those working in these universities who get promoted through research. All this contributed to the revitalization of academic research in Palestine in general and Gaza in particular.

Al-Dowayan et al's study (2000:64) aimed to identify research priorities in the field of education; which may contribute to help researchers in the selection of research and studies of high priority and may help the officials to draw plans and design programs to make the decision to achieve the goals and objectives of research. The sample consisted of 550 individuals representing different sections in the ministry including directors of education, educational supervisors, school principals, teachers and counselors, a number of interested people, and university professors. The researchers noted that the proper educational research, which arrives at correct conclusions is one of the most important efforts that can be provided for decision-makers and policy makers and thus of high priority.

In this regard, Awadallah (2014) prepared a guide to the priorities of academic research in Palestine in 2014 and 2015, based on its strategic and economic importance to solve the most pressing problems facing Palestinian society, taking into account the Palestinian reality with all its elements, including research capacity, and the reality of higher education institutions and scientific research institutions in Palestine. In his preparation of the guide, he relied on the concerned experts' consensus whether as individuals, ministries or institutions in the field of scientific research priorities by conducting several workshops held at the Islamic University in Gaza and the Council of academic Research in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education at its headquarters in Gaza City. One of the goals of this guide was to determine the reality of academic research in the Palestinian universities and to identify the challenges that face it, and identify priorities for scientific research in Palestine including education and educational sciences. This guide concluded that the most important priorities of academic research in this area was research regarding the reality of the kindergarten in terms of infrastructure according to the international specifications, followed by studies related to the cost and funding of education in pre-school, and programs for the preparation of kindergarten teachers, administrative reality in kindergarten and the reality of the kindergarten curriculum. In the field of mental health, which is included within the field of medical sciences and environmental health, the study of the prevalence of mental illness, suicide, addiction and studying the impact of the economic and social situation on mental health have been a top priority, in addition to promoting mental health of prisoners and victims of war, and practices of the Zionist repression and evaluation of psychological services in the Palestinian health institutions.

Awadallah (2014) points to a most striking point represented in the fact that most of the research carried out by the faculty at universities is characterized by being descriptive and simple, the majority of which were lacking in originality, and was no more than a repetition of the research done by others with some weak adjustments, and many of them touch issues of little significance. In the same vein, Al-Aga and Al-Farra indicate (2001: 20-22) that on the national level research plans, team research, collective and institutional research, as well as future and constructivist research which is creative in addressing real problems faced by the educational process were absent. This led to the prevalence of individuality in a time we are in dire need of a common collective planning, coordination, and cooperation between universities in the same region, or between the Palestinian universities as a whole. On the other hand, Saadat states (2001: 1) that educational research in the Arab world still lacks a policy and strategy that guide and direct it as there is no clearly defined policy to Educational Research at the level of the Arab states on which research centers and universities can draw in identifying research themes and their implementation, besides the lack of strategies to adjust priorities by considering the demands of society and the requirements of development plans. Similarly, Kamal and Ahmad point that (1995) there are seven basic problems facing the psychological and educational research in the Arab world, namely: the lack of a clear policy for Educational Research, lack of database, lack of research staff, the weakness of the interaction between educational research and educational system, inadequate funds allocated for research, poor communication between producers of research and its consumers, and the ineffectiveness of the research results in educational practice.

Ismail's study (2011) aimed to evaluate some of the research and studies conducted by Arab and international researchers in the field of psychological sciences. The study sample consisted of (34) researches including (published research – Master theses and PhD dissertations). The researcher used the psychological research evaluation scale, which consisted of 337 items distributed on the various elements of research. The results of the study indicated the presence of significant differences between Arab and foreign research in the importance of research section in favor of research written in Arabic. Besides, the results also indicated that much of the research does not address all the elements of good research. The Egyptian research tries to highlight clearly the importance of research section in the hope that the results of research appeal to decision-makers. The Arab Research in general emphasizes this aspect more than the foreign research does as the foreign research attempts to take advantage of any research, regardless of allocating a separate section for showing its importance. In the area of research productivity, Barghouti and Abu Samra demonstrate that (2007: 1139) the vast difference in financial support assigned for research by the Arab countries and the developed countries has great repercussions

on the productivity of researchers, the quality of producing scientific research, as a productive researcher in developed countries produces annually (5.1) research, while in the Arab countries, we find that the researcher produces (2) annually. Moreover, the total research conducted by researchers in the Arab countries equals only the sum of research conducted by Harvard University in the United States.

According to Mohammed (2008: 660), a comparison between the developed world and the Arab world shows that there is a large gap between them. In the field of scientific research, we see that the United States spends on scientific research, much more Arab countries combined in this area as the ratio is 1: 120. Barghouti and Abu Samra indicate that (2007: 1137) the Arab universities allocate 1% of their budget for scientific research while the United States allocate (40%). Therefore, Muhammad believes that (2008: 661) the Arab states expenditure on scientific research is insignificant, and the contribution of the private sector in the financing of scientific research in the Arab world is very weak compared to the countries of the developed world.

It is noteworthy that the share of Arab Universities in spending on scientific research does not exceed 30% of total spending, which is a very meager proportion compared with what Berkeley University gets for example in exchange for research services it provides. It gets six times of what is spent by Arabs on higher education as a whole in all Arab universities ([http://www.alhorriah.org/exstra\\_news\\_headlines](http://www.alhorriah.org/exstra_news_headlines)).

However, Israel spends an equal share on scientific research as that of Japan, the United States, Germany, or France. It spends on research and development twice as much as Arab countries combined. It is the highest ratio in the world in terms of spending on scientific research of the gross national income. [www.alzaytouna.net](http://www.alzaytouna.net) Arabic.

The UNESCO report of Sciences notes (2010) that in Japan the government expenditure on research does not exceed the support of the Japanese government 21.5%, of what is spent in this area, while the industrial sector alone provides more than 68%, and about 11% of other non- governmental sources.

Aug, Win (1997) explains that the Japanese universities have hundreds of cooperative research centers. The Universities of Tokyo and Tohoku house 56 centers whose mission is finding the problems facing the Japanese industry, and putting forward ideas that strengthen the relationship between industry and universities. Torri, Koji (2000) maintain that one of the types of cooperation between higher education institutions in Japan and productive enterprises in the areas of research is to resort to grants and donations as national universities conduct research funded by industrial enterprises through grants and donations, and the government exempts productive enterprises from the tax wholly or partially.

There is no doubt that any developed country, scientific research center, and different educational institutions depend on the results of scientific research as a means to develop policies, strategies and plans for the development of all fields, as well as setting priorities in research and educational programs and to identify its strengths to invest in them, and weaknesses to diagnose and treatment them, as well as preparing researchers in this field to meet the developmental tasks of individuals and the psychological and social demands of society.

It could be argued that one of the most important areas, based upon scientific research in the Arab scene, is the field of psychological counseling, which means preparing a productive generation having a reasonable degree of mental health and free from the problems and mental disorders that reduce its productivity in society, and compromises its role as individuals in its progress and development. In this area, the importance of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling in educational institutions of various kinds and levels cannot be overestimated as a means to improve the quality of decisions, and help workers to find immediate and deferred remedies to the various problems related to the process of psychological counseling for all targeted groups at those institutions.

Based on the foregoing, scientific research in the field of psychological counseling must draw on a sound scientific basis to ensure the quality, novelty and originality and diversity in this area.

Psychological counseling process has become a landmark in any education system, and within any private or public educational institution, and has become a field, where professionals compete to highlight the best of their skills and capabilities. This prompted them to conduct further studies and research in the field of psychological guidance in various fields and the psychological aspects of personal growth.

The current study is an analytical survey of all themes around which research conducted by professionals and researchers in psychological counseling at the Gaza Strip universities is distributed in an attempt to identify the areas, which received more attention in psychological counseling research in these universities. Besides, it aims to compare them according to the priorities of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling as perceived by a sample of counselors working in the field in schools and UNRWA in the Gaza Strip to determine the compatibility between the two. The researcher hopes to draw a clear-cut policy in educational research in the field of psychological counseling, and contribute in shaping the priorities of the areas of research in this field.

### **Statement of the problem:**

Educational research in the field of psychological began in Gaza Strip in the early nineties of the twentieth century by efforts simply described as individual scattered on the academic and professional levels, and the research in this area at that time was still fertile and virgin, so that any research was worth conducting regardless of the possibility of its employment and its practical benefits.

Graduate program were started in some universities in the Gaza Strip, Al-Azhar University, the Islamic University, and more recently in 2013 at Al-Aqsa University, and with the increase in the number of teaching staff in counseling departments in education colleges in these universities members, it was imperative for the planners of the policies of educational research and decision-makers to develop a national comprehensive plan that focuses on the field of psychological counseling and scientific research in order to prevent repetition and duplication of some research, to bridge the gap between theory and practice, to achieve convergence between the views of the professional researchers in departments of psychological counseling at universities, and among psychologists working in institutions and counselors working in schools of different kinds, and living with reality more closely than other professionals in universities, in addition to the prevention of unintentional negligence of some important areas in psychological counseling, and the unjustified marginalization of some sectors of society as samples of research. Unfortunately , all this did not happen.

With the passage of time and nearly two decades of the existence several post graduate programs in the Palestinian universities in the Gaza Strip graduate programs, it is essential to make a comprehensive national plan regarding the priorities of educational research in the field of psychological counseling in the light of the psychological and social needs of members of the community and the requirements of psychological growth.

In this study, the researcher attempts to identify these priorities in the field of psychological counseling based on her study of educational literature in the field of educational research in Palestine, and exploring the views of some counselors and specialists working in the field of psychological counseling, and in the light of the of educational research in the field of psychological counseling in many countries. Here the study highlights the problem in the following main question:

#### ***What are the priorities of academic research among the professionals in the field of psychological counseling in Palestine universities?***

The following sub-questions emanate from the above major one:

1. What are the societal groups that are supposed to be investigated by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling at the universities in the Gaza Strip in Palestine as perceived by specialists in the field?
2. What are the aspects of personality growth that are supposed to be investigated by professionals in the field of psychological counseling at universities in the Gaza Strip as perceived by specialists in the field?
3. What are the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling associated with the community groups as research samples as perceived by a sample of counselors working in the field?
4. What are the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling associated with manifestations of personality growth as perceived by a sample of counselors working in the field?
5. What is the reality of the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling on the two areas namely research groups of society as samples, and the manifestations of personality growth ?
6. To what extent does the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling on the various groups of society as research samples conform with the priorities that have been developed by counselors working in the field?
7. To what extent does the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling on various aspects of the personality growth conform with the priorities that have been developed by counselors working in the field?
8. What is the suggested framework for the priorities for academic research in the field of psychological counseling in the future?

9. How do academic counseling psychology researchers interpret avoiding some societal groups ( like , criminals , man and his role, prisoners , divorcees , politicians ,clergy , the very disadvantaged below the poverty line ) and some manifestations of growth ( like , the sexual growth and sexual issues ,linguistic development ,and ethical growth ) ?

### **Objectives:**

The current study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1-Identifying the reality of educational research in the field of psychological counseling carried out by professional researchers at departments of psychological counseling in faculties of education at the universities in the Gaza Strip, from two sides namely: the community groups as research samples, and manifestations of personality growth addressed by such research

2- Identification of the priorities of educational research in the field of psychological counseling in the Gaza Strip as perceived by a random sample of counselors working in the field in the two areas: community groups samples and growth in personality growth manifestations.

3- Investigating the compatibility and the balance between the distribution of educational research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling in Palestinian universities on two areas: community groups and manifestations of personality growth, and the priorities set by the counselors and psychologists working in the field.

4- Providing of a suggested proposal for future research priorities in the field of educational psychological counseling.

### **Significance:**

The present study is significant because of the following:

1- It assists researchers in the field of psychological counseling in selecting the research subject matter in light of the real needs of individuals, society and distance them from problematic repetition , stereotypes, and duplication.

2- It attracts the attention of researchers , academic institutions, and professionals to the different areas that have not received much attention of academic research in the field of psychological counseling in terms of community groups as research samples, and various areas of personality growth, and thus focus their research on these in the future.

3-It helps decision-makers to benefit from the results of academic research in the field of psychological counseling and their applications in developing the process of counseling and guidance.

4-Achieving balance in the efforts available in the areas of academic research in the field of psychological counseling in order to serve the different issues and needs in the Palestinian society.

5-Benefiting professionals, academics and researchers from the proposed framework to identify priorities for academic research in the field of psychological counseling in the future; and thus identify the most important research topics that can be done to compensate for the shortcomings of current research in this area.

### **Limitations:**

The current study findings must be interpreted in the light of the following limitations:

\*\*study and analysis of researches done by professionals working at the universities in Palestine Gaza Strip from the lists of professional research scientifically refereed in the field of psychological counseling, and published in electronic journals of universities in the Gaza Strip (Islamic - Al-Azhar - Al-Aqsa) in the time period between 200-2014, in two areas: community groups as research samples, and the various aspects of the growth in personality.

\*\*The current study excludes professional psychological counseling research published outside the Gaza Strip or abroad.

\*\*The study did not include academic research in the field of psychological counseling (Masters and PhDs) dissertations.

\*\*The study was limited to a random sample of counselors working in the UNRWA schools of Khan Younis and Rafah educational regions.



## Terms:

**First:** scientific research in the field of psychological counseling:

The researcher means the information and data necessary to answer the research questions linked to the problems of the field of psychological counseling and development in terms of objectives, content and activities, methods and strategies and provide feedback; thus achieving practical goals and guidelines reflect positively on them.

**Second:** the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling:

The researcher means by the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling as the aspects and areas of the most important guidelines for the process in educational institutions, in the light of the needs and requirements of members of Palestinian society in the Gaza Strip.

## Previous studies:

There are numerous Arab studies on academic research, some of which addressed the priorities of academic and educational research in some Arab countries, while others dealt with the obstacles facing researchers while conducting their research. The following are some of these studies:

Najjar (2001) conducted a study in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which aimed to investigate the reality of the use of the Internet in the scientific and academic research among the faculty lecturers and teaching assistants of both sexes in the four faculties of the university whose total number was 200 academics. The researcher's most important findings were that most of the respondents use the Internet weekly in scientific research, most of them believed that the use of the Internet for the purpose of scientific research was very important, the most important uses of the Internet was for research sources, and that the main obstacles to Internet use in scientific research was the lack of appropriate training on the use of the Internet.

Al-maqboul's study (2001) aimed to identify the importance of educational research and practice and the difficulties of conducting research among educational supervisors in Baha area. The researcher used the descriptive analytical method and administered a questionnaire on a sample of (108) educational supervisors. The researcher concluded that educational research was highly important for the educational supervisors and the degree of practicing Educational Research was medium because of the obstacles that prevented them from doing educational research.

Likewise, El- Agha and Farra's study (2001) aimed to identify the areas around which the Palestinian research in the area of curriculum was distributed and the harmony between the reality of the distribution of research on specific areas with the priorities set by the experts. The researchers used the descriptive analytical method for a non-random sample of professional research conducted by members of the faculty, and academic research of graduate students. The tool they used was a list of information about the educational research actually done in the areas of curriculum in Palestine. They concluded that the research distribution to specific areas did not conform with the priorities set by experts, especially in the field of evaluation of textbooks, while there was a match in the field teaching methods. Besides there was a mismatch between the priorities of academic research and the priorities for professional research when compared to the priorities identified by experts. The researchers envisioned a proposal to research priorities in the field of educational curricula in the future.

Palestine Academy for Science and Technology (2002) conducted a study whose aim was to display and diagnose the reality of scientific research in Palestine. It also attempted to identify and address the problems encountering academic research problems related to activating scientific research. The study tool was a questionnaire developed after studying a set of reports, plans, policies and previous research. The results revealed that the most important obstacles to scientific research is the lack of private support and financial resources, and poor coordination and cooperation between scientific institutions and the investment sector, and that most of the research was not consistent with national needs and priorities.

In the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Jaradat's study (2002) aimed to know the reality and the future prospects of scientific research in public universities in Jordan, during the first quarter of the twentieth -first century. The research sample consisted of (438) subjects of the research community, which included members the faculty at the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University, and the University of Muta. He found that the respondents believed that the university was working on the scientific research with a relatively weak degree and this did not qualify research to reach the required level and assume the status of developmental research. Besides, he pointed to the lack of coordination between the university's plans, objectives and plans of National Development and needs.

Al-Ajiz and Banat's study (2003) aimed to diagnose the features of the current reality of scientific research in the Palestinian universities, as well as to identify the most important challenges that face it, and to set a proposal for an ambitious plan for scientific research in the Palestinian universities. The researchers used the descriptive

analytical method for data collection. The study found that the movement of scientific research at universities was evolving despite the difficult challenges. However, this research activity had not reached the required level to which the researchers aspired as the study revealed the existence of many obstacles, most important of which was ignorance of the conclusions of the researchers, the lack of funding, lack of and inaccessibility to information resources, the inappropriate academic atmosphere, the lack of specific criteria for evaluating research and its dissemination, the lack of a national policy for determining its scope and priorities, and the lack of support for scientific research.

In Al-Quds Open University in Palestine, Al-Jerjawi and Hammad's (2005) study aimed to diagnose obstacles facing the scientific research and faculty members. The researchers used the descriptive analytical method. The results of the study showed that the most important obstacles facing the university researcher are the physical and administrative obstacles and impediments of Publishing and distribution. The study sample consisted of randomly selected 103 researchers from the faculty of Al-Quds Open University.

Likewise, Al-Ustaz and Al-Hajjar (2005) from Al-Aqsa university in Palestine aimed to unravel how far the Palestinian universities conduct academic research in accordance with an educational and developmental research map. The researchers surveyed the research output of academic graduate students at Palestinian universities in the Gaza Strip (Al-Aqsa, Islamic, Al-Azhar) in the period between 1996-2002, which amounted to (292) researches, and compared them with the requirements of the development inferred from the Palestinian educational development. The study found that there is a mismatch between educational research and most of the development requirements as the percentage of research that conforms to the first development requirement (curriculum development) is (49.5%) while there is a mismatch with the other six requirements: the development of formal education, and non-formal education, educational and administrative abilities, and the development of human resources of the educational system, and the development of education relationship with other systems and the development of higher education.

Muammariah (2005) in Algeria aimed to identify the physical, social, psychological, academic obstacles to scientific research. The sample consisted of (79) professors distributed among five colleges in the University of Batna. The researcher administered an estimation list of the constraints of scientific research to the professors. The results indicated that the most important obstacles that negatively affect scientific research is the lack of modern scientific references, the university environment which does not promote scientific research, and the absence of relationship between the University and other academic institutions, lack of financial support for scientific research, failing to secure a decent life for the researcher, and the lack of specialized scientific meetings, Personal obstacles manifested themselves in personal reluctance to start doing research, low personal motivation to conduct scientific research, preoccupation with family and social obligations, the lack of packages in time management, and dominance of anxiety when thinking about doing a research.

Al-Sharifi's study (2006) aimed to identify the level of importance of educational research among supervisors and specialists in Karbala province of Iraq, as well as the extent of doing educational research on the part of supervisors and specialists. And what are the obstacles and problems that reduce their work in this area. The research sample was (30) educational supervisor and specialist representing 50% of the original population. The researcher used the questionnaire as a tool for the study as well as personal interviews. The results showed that the perceptions of supervisors and specialists about the importance of educational research was good, and conducting educational research was good, though it did not live up to the desired level. However, in the field of obstacles, the results showed that there is a high percentage of problems and obstacles that hinder their work in the field of scientific research, such as lack of material and moral incentives provided to the researcher, despite most supervisors and specialists being convinced of the importance of educational research.

In Palestine, Al-Barghouti and Abu Samra made a study (2007), which investigated the problems of academic research in the Arab world. The population of the study consisted of research related to the topic of research. The results indicated that the problems of academic research in the Arab world can be summarized as follows: the lack of a budget allocated for academic research to buy hardware and references and scientific journals, the lack of funding for researchers and their assistants, teaching loads that do not allow adequate time for research, the lack of clear policies in many countries around the concept and objectives of the research that they want, the brain drain factors in the field of scientific research which force researchers to immigrate to Western or Eastern countries, and the absence of a link between scientific research and community problems and issues.

Attari and Jeran's study (2007) conducted in Jordan aimed to identify the reality of educational research in the Masters and PhDs in Jordanian universities over the past three decades. The study sample consisted of (238) Master and PhD theses in education, and the study revealed a steady increase in the number of dissertations especially the Master's degree ones, and that the number of male researchers was greater than that of female ones, and the descriptive approach and questionnaire, is the prevailing approach in data collection and analysis.

In (2010), the Higher Council for Science and Technology in Jordan made a study which aimed to determine the priorities of scientific research in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the years 2011-2020 in various fields

of science, technology and innovation, and to identify research issues of the highest priority, and the least priority among key topics, and guide researchers towards paths Scientific research by identifying high-priority research questions within key topics. And the results of the study indicated that of the most important research priorities in the field of educational science and education is the teacher preparation program in pre-school and the conformity of field training plans and programs applied in the preparation of teachers in child-rearing in the Jordanian universities with modern trends in the training and preparation of teachers in child-rearing in the light of international standards, as well as common learning strategies and education of children among kindergarten teachers, and gaps in the curriculum in science and mathematics and teacher education programs at Jordanian universities.

Albomamed and Badri's study (2012) aimed to recognize the reality of scientific research in the Arab world on the basis of studies and research conducted in a number of Arab countries. After reviewing and examining these studies, the researchers concluded the following results: the reality of scientific research in the Arab world is still weak, and beyond the acceptable level. And this reality faces a number of obstacles manifested in the separation of scientific research for the applied field, the dramatic low percentage of spending , absence of an information base, and the absence of modern scientific sources.

**Methodology and procedures:**

**Methodology:** The researcher used the descriptive analytical method, which is based on monitoring the research available to the researcher in the field of psychological counseling in it various forms . The researcher listed the related literature in two lists: the first is concerned with the nature of the sample (Social group covered by the research), and the second list relating to different manifestations of growth in the personality covered by the research. This study is a survey for academic research in the field of psychological counseling available to the researcher. This has been analyzed and classified in the light of the two lists prepared by the researcher to determine the priorities of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling.

**The study population:** the original study population consists of all academic research in the field of psychological counseling carried out by professional researchers (faculty members working at psychology departments in Palestinian universities in the Gaza Strip ).

**The study sample:** it included on all academic research in the field of psychological counseling carried out by professional researchers (faculty members working at universities in Gaza Strip), and published in electronic journals of the Universities of the Gaza Strip in Palestine, limited by the study, namely: Al-Aqsa University, and the University of Al-Azhar, and the Islamic University, totaling (64) purposively selected. Table No. 1 illustrates this.

**Table (1)**  
**Distribution of research in the field of psychological counseling in electronic magazines in the three universities (Al-Aqsa - Al-Azhar – The Islamic universities) n the period between 2000-2014**

No.	Electronic Magazine Name	Number of research in the field of psychological counseling
1.	-Al-Aqsa University Magazine Humanities Series .	20
2.	-Al-Azhar University Magazine Humanities Series .	10
3.	- Journal of the Islamic University for Educational and Psychological Studies. - Islamic University Research Journal of humanity.	34
<b>Total</b>		<b>64</b>

**Tools:**

\*\* Priorities for academic research in the field of psychological counseling form.

\*\* Interview : the researcher conducted an interview with 13 psychology counseling researchers to get their views of the samples they worked with and why they did not opt for the less researched samples. The interviewees constitute 20% of the population of the study .



The researcher designed a list of the priorities for academic research in the field of psychological counseling. The researcher felt that the list should be filled out by a random sample of counselors working in UNRWA schools in the educational areas of Khan Younis and Rafah, on the grounds that the counselors is deals with psychological problems among all target groups, and various samples for research in the field of psychological counseling. They deal with these groups closely and professionally, and thus are more likely closer to the practical reality that presented research problems to the researchers and professionals in their work places in universities. The number of the sample of counselors targeted in the present study reached (58) ones.

**The researcher prepared the list through the following steps:**

- 1- Studying educational literature in the field of psychological counseling, and various research that has directly or indirectly dealt with it.
- 2- Viewing the priorities of scientific and educational research in the field of psychological counseling in many Arab and developing countries.
- 3- Monitoring the views of specialists in the field of psychological counseling from Palestinian academics and professionals working in universities and other educational institutions like psychiatrists and psychologists as well as the experience of researchers in this field.
- 4- Based on the previous three steps, the researcher has identified key areas for the list, which will identify priorities for research in the field of psychological counseling through the following steps, which will ensure the validity of the form ( content validity)

Directing two open -ended questions for a sample of experts and specialists in the field, and the questions are as follows:

- 1 . What are the segments of society as samples of research in the field of psychological counseling in the Gaza Strip ?
- 2 . What are the different aspects of growth in personality addressed by researchers and professionals in the field of psychological counseling in the Gaza Strip, from your point of view and your field of experience?

Answers are collected in a list after deleting repetitions, thus the preliminary list consisted of two parts:

( A) Section I: includes the various segments of society as research samples that can be included in scientific research in the field of psychological counseling

.(B) The second section covers the various manifestations in personality growth that should be investigated.

The previous list was displayed to specialists and experts in Palestinian universities and social institutions associated with the domain to determine the final formulation, and make adjustments in such a way that puts forth a list in its final and a appropriate form (Appendix 1) . Thus the researcher has ensured the content validity of the form.)

***The reliability of the form.:***

To check the reliability of the form researcher used the test retest method. The researcher reapplied the test after two weeks from the first application. She returned and asked the previous questions themselves to the same sample of specialists and workers in the field of psychological counseling, and has found that the reliability coefficient in this way is equal to (0.78), which is high enough which qualifies the form for application and leads to reliable results.

***Steps of the study.:***

To achieve the objectives of the current study and answer its questions researcher followed the following steps:  
1. Reviewing literature , educational trends , contemporary studies, and opinions of specialists in the field of scientific research in psychological counseling.

2. Constructing the study tool which is a list concluded through asking counselors working in the field schools and UNRWA in the Gaza Strip about their opinions concerning the priorities of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling form.
3. Administering the study tool to the sample of counselors.
4. Studying and analyzing research published electronically in electronic journals of universities in Gaza Strip, which was limited to the field of psychological counseling, and classified in the light of the priorities prepared by the researcher, and scheduling it in an easy.
5. Analysis and interpretation of the results and discussing priorities form, and the results of the survey for electronic research published, then conducting a comparison between them and determining the extent of agreement and disagreement between the two lists.
6. Putting forth a proposal for the priorities of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling in the future, in the light of the needs of society; making it easier for researchers to choose their research topics.

The researcher used a statistical method based on measuring the degree of loading of each area of the form, and thus determined the priorities for these areas, which is the most appropriate in such a survey and descriptive analytical research.

### ***Results and interpretation :***

To answer the research questions, the researcher collected , analyzed, tabulated , classified, interpreted and discussed the data.

#### ***The first question:***

This question asks: " *What are the societal groups that are supposed to be investigated by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling at the universities in the Gaza Strip in Palestine as perceived by specialists in the field?*"

To answer this question the researcher reviewed the educational literature , previous studies, references and various books in the field of psychological counseling, and concluded a list related to different segments of society that could be taken as samples of research in this area. Then this list was presented to a group of specialists in the field of psychological counseling working in various universities and community institutions, and asked them to give their comments on the list, in terms of deleting repetitions and similarities between the samples, and the possibility of adding other societal segments overlooked by the researcher under the item (propose other samples not mentioned in the list).She named this form (the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling). Having heard the views of specialists and taken their suggestions into account , the researcher identified a group of segments of society as samples of research that can be addressed by educational research by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling working in the universities in the Gaza Strip. The list included (16) social groups as research samples . The samples are as follows:

Children and their education and psychological problems, adolescents and their educational and psychological problems, the young and their contemporary societal problems and issues (university students , unemployed graduates and workers), the elderly, widows (including those martyrs' wives and other widows), divorced (including those married for the second time), and spinsters, those with special needs with their various scientific classifications (including physical and emotional patients), men and their role , their societal issues and problems, working women and psychological and societal issues, decision-makers in the community, (including all those having a responsibility in their respective works are decision-makers comprising: parents , teachers, school administrators and directors of institutions, associations, etc.), the category crushed below the poverty line, and prisoners (and with them the freed prisoners), and criminals, and the clergy, and politicians (working in the field of politics).

Thus, the researcher answered the first question of the study, and the aforementioned samples are samples that are supposed to be investigated by specialists in the field and to be addressed by the professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling.

#### ***The second question:***

This question is as follows: " *What are the aspects of personality growth that are supposed to be investigated by professionals in the field of psychological counseling at universities in the Gaza Strip as perceived by specialists in the field?*" .

To answer this question, the researcher followed the same method used to answer the first question, through the use of the list proposed by specialists in the field reached by the arbitration of priorities of academic research form and ensuring the validity of its content. Thus identifying the various of manifestations of growth in personality that can be dealt with by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling in the universities in the Gaza Strip (Al-Aqsa Al-Azhar and the Islamic universities). The number of these developmental aspects reached (7) with the addition of any new one missed by the researcher as she asked the respondents to suggest any other aspects not mentioned in the list. These aspects are ordered as follows:

Physical and motor development, cognitive and mental growth, emotional growth, psychological and social growth, sexual growth, and growth of language, and the ethical and moral growth. Thus, the researcher answered the second question of the study. And the previous manifestations of growth mentioned earlier are the areas that are supposed to be investigated by specialists and professionals researchers in the field of psychological counseling.

***The third question:***

This question as follows: " *What are the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling associated with the community groups as research samples as perceived by a sample of counselors working in the field?*"

To answer this question, the researcher applied the priorities of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling on a random sample of counselors working in schools and UNRWA in the Gaza Strip who numbered (58) psychological counselor selected from all educational areas, and asked them to order re-research samples (community groups included in the form) regarding their priority according to their field experience and their first hand knowledge of psychological and educational problems of the most pressing nature in their field, and after collecting the forms of counselors, the data were classified. It has been shown that the segments of society as research samples from the viewpoint of counselors working with UNRWA schools were ranked as in the Table No. (2)

**Table (2)**  
***The priorities of educational research in the field of psychological counseling regarding the research community segments as samples as perceived by a sample of counselors***

No.	Research sample from segments of society	total ranks	average ranks	priorities from the perspective of counselors
1.	childhood and its educational and psychological problems	254	4.4	1
2.	Teenagers and their educational and psychological problems	392	6.8	2
3.	Divorcees	400	6.8	2 (repeated)
4.	People with special needs in their various scientific classifications	415	7.1	4
5.	Widows	443	7.6	5
6.	Spinsters	481	8.2	6
7.	The very disadvantaged under the poverty line	479	8.2	6 (Repeated)
8.	The Elderly	412	7.1	8
9.	The young and their contemporary and societal issues and problems	504	8.6	9
10.	Prisoners	526	9.1	10
11.	decision-makers in the community	525	9.1	10 (Repeated)
12.	Politicians	536	9.2	12
13.	Clerics	570	9.8	13
14.	Working women	581	10	14
15.	criminals	587	10.1	15
16.	men and their role and societal issues	649	11.1	16

Table (2) shows the following:

- There is a range of sectors of society that received priority as samples of research in the field of psychological counseling from the perspective of counselors. These are: children, adolescents , people with special needs, and widows. The researcher believes that these sectors' priority lies in their importance in the life of the individuals and society as well, due to the fact that psychological normalcy in childhood is the basis of the psychological ones in all the subsequent developmental stages in the life of the individuals like adolescence, youth and old age. Childhood is an important stage and has a role which cannot be ignored, whether positive or negative. Therefore , the consensus among counselors regarding the priorities of research with regard to children seems logical and realistic.
- There are community slides that appeared last unanimously approved by counselors as research samples of top priority in the field of psychological counseling, namely politicians, clergy , criminals , working women, and men and their issues. The researcher thinks that these sectors of society are important, and neglecting them is probably because counselors believe that the basis for the success of the roles played by all sectors of society is ascribable to childhood and that if the educational basis of childhood is sound, it leads to the emergence of fair politicians and good clerics, and the disappearance of from offenders and other community-related problems. This agrees with the result reached by Awadallah (2014), who confirmed that the most important priorities of scientific research in this area is the kindergarten and its infrastructure according to international standards, and studies related to the cost of education in pre-school and its financing, and the programs of preparing kindergarten nurses.

**The fourth question:**

This question is as follows:” *What are the priorities of academic research in the field of psychological counseling associated with manifestations of personality growth as perceived by a sample of counselors working in the field?*”

To answer this question the researcher asked the counselors to rearrange the different growth appearances in personality included in the form according to the research priority according to their field experience. After collecting the forms of counselors, the data were classified. This process has shown that the priorities of the manifestations of growth in the personality as perceived by the counselors working in and UNRWA schools were ranked as follows in table No.3 :

**Table (3)**  
***Educational research in the field of psychological counseling associated with manifestations of growth in personality as perceived by counselors***

No.	personality growth manifestations	Total ranks	Ranks averages	priorities as perceived by counselors
1.	Ethical and value growth	170	2.9	1
2.	Mental and cognitive development	179	3.1	2
3.	Physical and motor growth	214	3.6	3
4.	Emotional growth	235	4.1	4
5.	Psychological growth	263	4.5	5
6.	sexual growth	274	4.7	6
7.	language growth	294	5.1	7

Table (3) shows the following:

- There are developmental aspects in personality which came last in the priorities as perceived by the counselors; as they did not believe their primacy in scientific research in the field of psychological counseling. These manifestations are: growth of language and sexual growth. The researcher believes that they are two important developmental manifestations, and they have their role, which cannot be ignored in the community . So researchers should focus on them in their future research, although they did not assume top priority on the list .

- There are developmental aspects in personality chosen by counselors and psychologists to assume a top priority in the field of psychological counseling . They are as follows : manifestations of moral and ethical growth, manifestations of cognitive and mental development, and manifestations of physical motor development. The researcher thinks that counselors focus on these aspects probably due to their importance and role in the community. With respect to manifestations of moral and ethical growth researchers probably think that we as a Palestinian society, especially in the current situation - live in amides of a crisis in values and ethics so they considered it a research priority. Regarding manifestations of cognitive and mental development, and those of physical and motor growth, their priority may be ascribable to the beliefs of counselors and psychologists that a healthy mind is in a healthy body, and both of which are extremely important for the mental health of the individuals.

***The fifth question:***

This question is as follows: " *What is the reality of the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling on the two areas namely research groups of society as samples, and the manifestations of personality growth ?*"

To answer this question, the researcher identified the different research in the field of psychological counseling in two phases:

- *Phase I:* identifying research and categorizing it based on the research sample.
- *Phase II:* identifying research and categorizing it based on various developmental aspects in personality addressed by each research.

By analyzing the results of the previous two phases the researcher to reached the results presented in tables (4,5) as described below:

**Table (4)**  
***The reality of the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling with respect to community- segments as research samples***

No.	Segments of society as research samples	The number of research	Order according to the distribution of research
1.	Childhood and its educational and psychological problems	13	2
2.	Teenagers and their educational and psychological problems	8	3
3.	The Divorced	1	7
4.	People with special needs	7	4
5.	Widows	1	7 Repeated
6.	Spinsters	nothing	11
7.	The very disadvantaged below the poverty line	nothing	11 repeated
8.	The Elderly	nothing	11 repeated
9.	young people and their contemporary and societal issues and problems	26	1
10.	Prisoners	2	6
11.	decision-makers in the community	4	5
12.	Politicians	Nothing	11 repeated
13.	clerics	Nothing	11 repeated
14.	Working Women	1	7 repeated
15.	criminals	Nothing	11 repeated
16.	men , their role and societal issues	1	7 repeated
<b>Total</b>		64	

Perusal of table (4) reveals the following:



- There are a set of community slides completely marginalized by professional researchers in terms of selecting them as research samples in the field of psychological counseling. These are: politicians, clergy, and criminals, the elderly, spinsters, and the very disadvantaged below the poverty line. The researcher believes they are important and have a role that cannot be overlooked in the community, whether it be positive or negative. And therefore the duty of the researchers is to focus on them in their research in the future.

- There are community segments abundantly addressed by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling, namely: young people and their issues and problems, childhood psychological and educational problems, adolescents, and those with special needs. The researcher believes that researchers focus on these sectors of society because of their importance and role in the community. But this importance and role should not push them to marginalize other segments of society.

**Table (5)**

**The reality of the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling regarding manifestations of personality growth**

No.	Manifestations of growth in	the number of research	Order according to reality
1.	Ethical and value growth	3	4
2.	Mental and cognitive growth	8	3
3.	Kinetic-physical growth	3	4 repeated
4.	Emotional growth	24	2
5.	Psychological growth	37	1
6.	Sexual growth	Nothing	6
7.	Language growth	Nothing	6 repeated
<b>Total</b>		<b>75</b>	

Viewing table (5) highlights the following:

- A range of manifestations of growth in personality are completely marginalized by professional researchers, that is they did not address them at all in their research in the field of psychological counseling. These are the manifestations of sexual and language development. the developmental aspects the researcher believes that these developmental aspects are important to be studied, and have role which cannot be ignored in the personality of the individuals. She also believes that the neglect of researching them may result in a defect in the personality of individuals, as manifestations of sexual development and sexual concepts should be a part of the culture and education parents and educators should be keen on and be planted in the character of their children, rather than leaving children seek for this type of culture from suspicious and unsafe sources which may result in dire consequences and push them to deviation. As for the aspects of language development, they are connected with verbal fluency of language, language intelligence, communication skills, and strategies of self-presentation, which are important research variables which play a role in developing the personality of the individual, and thus the researcher thinks that the duty of researchers is to focus on these two aspects of growth in personality in future research.

- There are developmental aspects in personality abundantly addressed by professional researchers in their research in the field of psychological counseling. These are manifestations relating to psychological growth, and emotional growth, followed by the manifestations of mental and cognitive development. The researcher believes that researchers' focus on these developmental aspects may be attributed to their importance and role in the individual's personality on one hand, and to the nature of the disciplines of academic researchers in the field of psychology and counseling which requires them to address research variables related to the nature of their specialization on the other hand. However, the researcher of the current study believes that the skilled researcher can reconcile all psychological variables and achieve a balance between the various developmental aspects in personality in such a way that does not drive him to focus on some of the manifestations of developmental research and marginalize and neglect other significant developmental aspects in personality.

It is noted that the sum of the total research is(57), a number which is more than the original number of research actually identified by the researcher. The reason for this is that there are studies the present researcher classified within two developmental aspects of the personality.

***The sixth question:***

This question reads as follows: " *To what extent does the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling on the various groups of society as research samples conform with the priorities that have been developed by counselors working in the field?*"

To answer this question the researcher identified the educational research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling (teaching staff in the Palestinian universities in the Gaza Strip), as they are on by returning to e-journals from the three universities (Al-Aqsa and Al-Azhar and Islamic), then Ordering this research according to the priorities of research samples for the researchers i.e. the most common research samples, and then comparing them with the priorities put forward by the counselors working in UNRWA schools. Table No. (6) shows this.

**Table (6)**

***The differences between the reality of the distribution of educational research conducted by professionals in the field of psychological counseling and the priorities that have been developed as perceived by field psychological counselors regarding the segments of society as research samples.***

No.	Research sample from segments of society	Priorities as perceived by counselors	Actual priorities among professional researchers	differences in priorities	Notes
1.	Childhood and its educational and psychological problems	1	2	-1	semi match
2.	Teenagers and their educational and psychological problems	2	3	-1	semi match
3.	The divorced	2 repeated	7	-5	priority (6)
4.	people with special needs	4	4	Zero	complete match
5.	Widows	5	7 repeated	-2	priority (1) Repeated
6.	Spinsters	6	11	-5	priority (6) Repeated
7.	Very disadvantaged below the poverty line	6 repeated	13	-7	priority (8) Repeated
8.	The elderly and aging stage	8	11 repeated	-3	priority (5)
9.	The young and their contemporary societal problems and issues	9	1	+8	received more than focus
10.	Prisoners	10	6	+4	received more focus
11.	Decision-makers	10 repeated	5	+5	received more focus
12.	Politicians	12	14	-2	priority (1) Repeated
13.	Clerics	13	15	-2	priority (1)
14.	Working women	14	7 repeated	+7	received more focus
15.	Criminals	15	16	-1	semi match
16.		16	7 repeated	+9	received more focus

It is seen from the above table that there is an agreement between the priorities set by the counselors and psychologists from their point of view, and the reality of professional research distribution in the field of psychological counseling in connection with the research community segments as samples. The following as a detailed illustration:

- There is a complete consistency between the views of counselors, psychologists, researchers, professionals, faculty members at universities in dealing with the samples of people with special needs i.e. the researchers' attention in this segment completely matches completely the priority set by the counselors.
- There is a high agreement between the views of counselors, psychologists, researchers, professionals, faculty members at universities in dealing with samples of children and adolescents, samples of criminals in their research.
- There are research samples that received too much of researchers' interest, they have been highlighted by the researchers in their research, such as the sample of young people, prisoners and decision-makers, and working women.
- There are research samples that received less attention than they deserve, as they have not received sufficient attention from researchers. They are arranged in order of priority in educational research as follows: Teens, widows, politicians, clerics (priority No. 1), the elderly (priority No. 5), and divorcees and spinsters (Priority No. 6), and the very disadvantaged below the poverty line (priority No. 8).

***The seventh question:***

This question reads as follows: *"To what extent does the distribution of academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling on various aspects of the personality growth conform with the priorities that have been developed by counselors working in the field?"*

To answer this question the researcher identified the academic research carried out by professional researchers in the field of psychological counseling (teaching staff at universities in the Gaza Strip, by collecting them from the electronic journals of the universities, covered in the current study, then arranging them according to the priorities of various aspects of personality growth addressed by researchers in their research, and then comparing them with the priorities put forward by the counselors working in UNRWA schools. Table No.(7) illustrates this.

**Table (7)**

***The differences between actual distribution of academic research done by professionals in the field of psychological counseling and the priorities that have been developed as the perceived by counselors with regarding the various manifestations of personality growth.***

No.	Manifestations of personality growth	Priorities as perceived by counselors	Priorities among professional researchers	Differences in priorities	Notes
1.	Ethical and value growth	1	4	-3	priority (1)
2.	Mental and cognitive growth	2	3	-1	semi match
3.	Physical-motor growth	3	4 repeated	-1	semi match
4.	Emotional growth	4	2	+2	received more focus
5.	Psychological growth	5	1	+4	received more focus
6.	Sexual growth	6	6	Zero	complete match
7.	Language growth	7	6 repeated	+1	semi match

It is clear from the above table that there is an agreement between the priorities set by the counselors and psychologists, and the reality of professional research distribution conducted by researchers in the field of

psychological counseling in connection with the various manifestations of growth in personality. The following is an illustration:

- There is a high convergence between the views of counselors, psychologists, researchers, professionals, and faculty members at universities in dealing with the manifestations of mental and cognitive development, and physical and motor, and linguistic growth..
- Some manifestations of growth in personality gained too much interest on the part of researchers. These have been highlighted by the researchers in their researches, such as the manifestations of the emotional and psychological development.
- There are some manifestations of personality growth which got less attention and care than they deserve, i.e. they have not received sufficient attention from researchers. These relate to the moral and value growth, which won priority No. 1 in academic research in the field of psychological counseling.
- The researcher explains the results obtained in the two tables (6) and (7) by confirming that the faculty members conduct studies in their majority field and according to their wishes and interests, without the slightest coordination with colleagues, or without following a research system particularly in those papers meant for academic promotions, in addition to the absence of local, and Arab research philosophy. This underlines the importance of the current study, and the need to develop a philosophy and an Arab and local educational policy that guide researchers in the field of psychological counseling, and save their research energy, and direct it towards the desired path in accordance with the needs of the community and its members.

***The eighth question:***

This question is as follows: " *What is the suggested framework for the priorities for academic research in the field of psychological counseling in the future?*"

Based on the findings of the previous questions ,the researcher laid the foundations to identify research priorities in the field of psychological counseling according to the following steps:

1. Examining the list of sectors of society as research samples, and a list of the different personality growth manifestations as proposed by psychologists working in the field.
2. Determining how far available professional research in the field of psychological counseling carried out by professional researchers in Palestinian universities in the Gaza Strip, i.e. actual priorities as reflected in the research conducted and published in the concerned journals.
3. Pinpointing the differences between the supposed and proposed priorities identified by psychologists, and the actual priorities as reflected in the studies covered by professional researchers to determine the consistency between the desired and supposed, and the actual reality as:
  - The lack of differences indicates full consistency.
  - The existence of differences by one point (+1 or -1) indicates semi consistency.
  - The presence of two points difference (+2 or -2) or more indicates a lack of consistency.
  - The plus sign difference (+/-) shows that the area received less attention than it should, and this needs to be taken into account when thinking about making future research, while the minus sign difference (-) shows that the area received more attention than it should, and therefore there is no need to focus on it in future research.

***The ninth question:***

This question is as follows: " *How do academic counseling psychology researchers interpret avoiding some societal groups ( like , criminals , man and his role, prisoners , divorcees , politicians ,clergy , the very disadvantaged below the poverty line ) and some manifestations of growth ( like , the sexual growth and sexual issues ,linguistic development ,and ethical growth ) ?*"

The researcher interviewed 13 researchers and asked them to express their opinions concerning the research questions:

**Interview (1):**

***Dr. Issa Al-Muhtasib : Assistant Professor in Mental Health:***

- There is a lack of previous studies that enable researchers to design their tools, which ultimately makes them reluctant especially in the Arab society. Besides, access to some samples is difficult for researchers, and this

places a heavy burden on them, that is why they focus on the most common and most accessible samples, which facilitates conducting their studies. This led to the emergence of a large number of studies that are in the same direction, and that does not benefit the community. These studies are conducted for the purpose of securing an academic degree or promotion. Therefore, I proposes that granting an academic degree should not be limited to making some formal research, but through the feasibility of such studies and their usefulness for individuals and the society as well.

- Regarding the negligence of the sample of spinsters, the reason is the lack of a unified operational definition of this concept especially in the Arab environment as well as the sensitivity of subjects toward being investigated.

- As for the ignorance of criminals, politicians and religious leaders as research samples, this is attributable to the complex procedures to gain access to them. The reason due to some researchers' fear of falling into the trap of political and partisan classifications and the disintegration of Palestinian society and politics which cause strife among the Palestinian people.

- In case of the sample of men, there is lack of understanding among men concerning the nature of scientific research and their response to its implementation in addition to the patriarchal nature of the Palestinian society and denial of the existence of problems because this is incompatible with the concept of manhood and lack of tact and social intelligence among men contrary to women.

- Manifestations of sexual development did not receive due attention because of its sensitivity and the nature of socialization, making it difficult to explore this area due to its being a taboo that render the topic unsearchable. And the manifestation of language development needs specialists. However, the ethical aspect is considered a sensitive theme as the subjects do not truthfully respond to the study tools.

## **Interview (2):**

***Dr. Khaled Abu Nada :Assistant professor of educational psychology .Al-Aqsa University***

The reluctance of researchers to investigate some research samples is because they are usually looking for most easily accessible one samples, and the most interactive with the researcher. With regards to politicians, the reason may be ascribable to lack of time on their part besides the necessity of appointing a specific date in advance with them to administer the tools. And this is time- consuming and not effort-effective. Additionally, there may be security motives and these figures are difficult to reach, especially since research requires more than one meeting with respondents, and the politicians are not interested in such research as there are more important issues for them as well as some researchers fear being categorized in a certain political affiliation.

As for the clergy, sometimes there is a holy aura surrounding them that prohibits and prevents others from sitting with them, and there may be psychological barriers between the clergy, and the general public. Besides, the sanctity conferred on them gives them a unique social status, which constitutes a hindrance that does not allow researchers enough space to conduct their studies about such a sample.

Moreover, the clergy may refuse to interact with researchers in some research issues, and that if the researcher reached certain results, he may suffer some embarrassment in his interpretation of them, and therefore there will be no credibility in the results.

Spinsters are under-researched because of the sensitivity of the theme. Researchers find it difficult to investigate spinsters using questionnaires and Palestinian society considers spinsterhood a disgrace and some females are not ready to cooperate with the researchers because they feel embarrassed by their spinsterhood.

With respect to criminals, researchers are required to undergo administrative, formal, and legal procedures that are time-consuming and exhausting as well, especially if the governmental responsible body does not understand the nature of the research. In addition, some researchers fear this class, because the place of the interview and application of tools is often in prisons, and some researchers, especially women researchers find it difficult to go to a prison if the offender is a woman. And some criminals do not care for researchers, fearing that the research might be part of the investigation and so they abstain from cooperating with researchers or feign their responses which ultimately compromise the findings.

Researchers are reluctant to deal with man and his role and issues in community as a researchable sample and this may be due to an imitation of the Western societies which pay much attention to women's issues. Researchers are affected by this trend adopted by foreign studies, whose samples are often females (women).



Some researchers conform with this research stream widespread in the western world as a result of globalization and the cultural invasion as some researchers working in foreign institutions are asked to conduct studies related to women. These studies are usually financially sponsored by these institutions.

Researchers abstain from dealing with some aspects of sexual growth due to the prevailing culture in the community and the nature of socialization, which bans talking about such matters motivated by social taboos rather than religious ones. Besides, many researchers expect that there will be no interaction from the respondents in this area, and some of the results may be difficult to expound for public discussion or interpretation.

language development is a developmental aspect that needs more than one specialization and thus requires researchers to do a lot of reading and deep understanding in the field,. This line of research needs to the work of a collective team of researchers.

As for the moral side, it is known that morality is linked to religion in general, and the fundamentals of society and sometimes a researcher may find it embarrassing to talk professionally and widely on the results of some studies and find himself compelled to overlook some of the facts and realistic results contrary to scientific professionalism.

### **Interview (3):**

#### ***Dr. Raeda Obaid (Educational Psychology - Assistant Professor):***

Politicians are under- researched because they are inaccessible for researchers. However, some researchers avoid clergy because they do not want to indulge in religious issues and prefer to keep neutral. While spinsters are not investigated for they constitute a sensitive category and their reluctance to interact with researchers . Some researchers do not like to deal with criminals due to lack of interest in this sample. Regarding the sample of men, the reason underlying neglecting them as a research sample is due to the fact that men lack the flexibility in dealing with researchers unlike women.

Regarding some manifestations of growth, researchers avoid the sexual sphere because of its sensitivity as we live in a closed society. Besides, researchers may be misunderstood by the respondents and may level dire immoral accusations . With regard to ethical and moral side, it is one of the red lines that are difficult to overcome due to the very nature of Palestinian society, especially in the Gaza Strip which is closed, and dominated by the values, customs and traditions that make the theme untouchable and impenetrable for researchers.

### **Interview (4):**

#### ***Professor. Dr. Nemat Alwan :Professor .Dr. of Mental Health:***

Researchers often try to relieve themselves of the burden and reduce the hardship they face in accessing those particular samples for several reasons :

1- material cost in terms of transportation and printing scales and tools.

2-Busyness of politicians constantly makes researchers reluctant to study them due to researchers' inability to take appointments to meet them at the time of their convenience. If the researcher is scheduled to meet a politician ,this requires effort and time.

For the clergy , they are too highly thought of by people to be selected as research samples causing reluctance of researchers to investigate them. Moreover, this category lacks time to interact with researchers. Regarding spinsters , the deprived below the poverty line, there is difficulty in reaching them, even though they are many. The Eastern communities are bound by particular values and habits related to dealing with spinsters. Researchers are hesitant to cover those categories for they fear to go to poor families and conduct studies on them because they may be mistaken for social workers providing material assistance.

For the sample of men, a man is a source of strength and a symbol of patience and steadfastness and he is too over- burdened to interact with researchers unlike women, who are so sensitive and emotional that they like and are willing to be researched .

With regard to the sample of criminals being under-researched , this may be due to the fact that the phenomenon is not widespread in Palestinian society, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and it might be wise for researchers not to shed light on that class and discuss their issues lest it should display things that are not tangible and not widespread .This state of affairs results from the resistant nature of Palestinian people and this reduces the crime rate, where individuals empty most of their energies in the resistance of the enemy.

It should be noted that the previous issues all exist in the community, but sometimes the researcher seeks to examine the problems that constitute a phenomenon in society, and not bother himself to look for things that are not tangible and unrealistic. If he does so, he will not find a sufficient sample from which the results can be generalized. The results are not statistically significant and this would level a major criticism that would compromise the study scientifically and practically as well that is why researchers avoid these samples.

On the other hand, researchers are stepping up their studies on youth and university students, and perhaps the reason is due to the fact that Palestinian society is a young society where the males constitute about 49% of the Palestinian society and females, 51%. This young category is the most widespread and most able to cooperate in any study. Scientifically, the greater the number the more psychological problems and phenomena that deserve investigation.

Besides, Palestinians in general and Gazans in particular, have been experiencing severe hardships where this young group is deprived of all their rights. For instance, there are no health services, nor real education, travel, a decent life, and the harsh conditions experienced by the people in the Gaza Strip reflect negatively on citizens. Accordingly, these categories deserve to receive due care and attention from the researchers who well concentrate on these categories.

The reluctance of researchers from dealing with the sexual side of individuals in the community may be due to the scarcity of studies that dealt with the theme as a theoretical framework that can be referred to by researchers, in addition to community culture which emphasizes that delving into such issues is a taboo, and the non-prevalence of these issues in Palestinian society. This makes it difficult for researchers to interact with homosexuals or those who have sexual problems as this topic is considered defective and contrary to the habits of society and prevailing culture.

For the linguistic aspect, it needs accurate disciplines which do not exist in addition to the fact that it is an area of research for the medical field and the field of psychology and sociology. Therefore, they need a complete team to address them, which makes it difficult for researchers.

As for the ethical and moral side, going into such issues as thefts, fraud and financial and administrative corruption is difficult, and constitutes an obsession for researchers and those who provide them with the information they need before conducting such studies for they need someone to protect researchers because they may reach undesirable results and these may affect influential people who are in charge. So researchers tend to relieve themselves of the burden of conducting such studies.

#### **Interview (5):**

##### ***Professor. Dr. Amal Juda / Professor. Dr. of Mental Health***

Politicians may be difficult to investigate for they are often busy with issues they consider more important than scientific research. Besides, they are narcissists who consider themselves superior to others. Clerics consider themselves the owners of the divine message who are above criticism. More importantly, they consider themselves right and are often intolerant.

Criminals are difficult to reach because they are either fugitives or in prisons and pose a threat to the researcher. However, regarding the man and his role and societal issues there is an image in mind that the man always does his job and hence there is no problem that needs to be studied. The poor beyond poverty line, I think that there are no studies on the rich that is why there are no similar studies on the poor. Regarding spinsters, there are a few studies, but because the theme is painful for the girl, she sometimes does not tell the truth.

There are very few studies on topics related to sex because they are taboo in the Palestinian society, and the sample refuses to interact with the researcher and to answer his questions. And language development is a difficult subject for researchers because it requires an accurate majority in the discipline and sometimes measurement tools are inaccurate and therefore the results are not precise. As for the issues of value there are studies on the topic contrary to the ethical aspect which is difficult for researchers because we are an eastern Muslim conservative community which rejects to address such issues and the subjects refuse to admit that they suffer from ethical problems to maintain their self-esteem. These issues may involve researchers in problems with the regime and the community as well.

#### **Interview (6):**

##### ***Dr. Najah Al-Sumeiri / Associate Professor of Mental Health***

Rarely do researchers deal with politicians because they are difficult to access and even when they are there is difficulty interviewing them. In addition, they excuse themselves for they are busy all the time. Moreover, it is difficult to reach politicians in the two parts of the country.

Men are neglected as a research sample because their role is clear. The man in the community does not need to be investigated and that Palestinian society is a male one, and whatever the study findings men will not believe them and admit their truthfulness.

The scarcity of studies on sexual growth is attributable to the fact that Palestinian society is a conservative one that does not interact with such studies and it is considered a taboo. So many researchers reject to study this topic. More important, the sample of the study respond to tools timidly and dishonestly.

#### **Interview (7):**

##### ***Dr. Ittaf Abu Ghali / Associate Professor of Mental Health***

For politicians, it is the absence of real democracy in Palestinian society that inhibits researchers to delve into topics affecting the political regime. As for samples of criminals, crime in the Gaza Strip is not a phenomenon in Palestinian society that is worth looking into unlike crime in other regional and international places.

For the clergy, they enjoy a high status in the society and it is difficult to go into their problems which rarely surface.

For the manifestations of sexual development, ethical and moral growth, these aspects need follow up and time consuming longitudinal studies. And Arab researchers generally lack team research skills in addition to financial sponsorship. Moreover, the prevailing culture is a barrier that hinders the work of researchers in those areas as they are difficult to study and researchers find them embarrassing. This risks researchers being classified as immoral and against the moral values of society.

#### **Interview (8):**

##### ***Dr. Abdul Rauf Talaa / Associate Professor of Mental Health:***

Politicians are hard to reach and there is a fear among some researchers to interpret the results related to the political aspect for several reasons related to the Palestinian community in the Gaza Strip. In some countries talking about politics is a taboo due to the absence of democracy, which requires researchers to move away from politics as it incurs problems. Some researchers in the Palestinian society run away from the political side due to the political split and the factional system in the society. Besides, the study of political figures requires explanation that could provoke a discussion which depends on ideology, and this in turn may level accusations on researchers whose interpretations may be mistaken as being based on factional partisan roots. And some politicians refuse to engage in personal interviews or to be a sample for the application of psychological measures.

Similarly, clerics are under-researched because they are related to the intellectual atmosphere prevailing in the society and the divide between religious and secular people, and therefore the results and interpretations become largely personal.

Spinsters are scarcely investigated due to the sensitivity of the subjects to criticism and establishing social relationships. Therefore, the level of responsiveness particularly to the scientific research in terms of tools, interviews, and sometimes filling questionnaires is not adequate and this does not reflect the true picture and this in turn pushes researchers to working with such studies.

Criminals in prison are difficult procedurally to reach because reaching them needs administrative and legal complex procedures. Additionally, criminals outside the prison are sensitive to researchers and abstain from engaging and communicating with this them. This category does not respond and sometimes does not answer the questions honestly because they have a negative attitude towards researchers.

Regarding the poor below the poverty line, there is difficulty in the operational definition among researchers about this class and sometimes this class mainly focuses on meeting all their basic needs of food, drink, clothing and shelter and research does not constitute a priority for them. Sometimes the low educational and cultural level may drive researchers to shun this category because the majority of studies require the subjects to respond to measures needing a high level of education and culture.

Regarding man, Eastern societies are generally male dominated ones on account of the dominant culture and mechanisms of socialization as a means of cultural transmission. Besides, topics of psychology in general focus on the negative side and do not address the positive side. As a result, women's sufferings are focused on and therefore man disqualifies as a research sample in those studies as he does not suffer from problems. There are widespread ideas concerning the suffering of men, which contradict with his manhood and social status. Therefore, it is logical to suppose that the man does not suffer from weaknesses or problems as women do.

Negligence of the sexual side by researchers may be ascribed to the culture prevalent as the mistaken understanding of this aspect of growth is an impetus to not to dwell on it, and sometimes the sample studied does not engage seriously with these studies and their responses are not true, causing the reluctance of researchers to address these areas.

As for the reluctance of researchers from the ethical and moral side, subjects idealize their answers to conform to what they deem socially appropriate and not what is really adopted by individuals so as not seem abnormal and contradict community standards. Sometimes, individuals regard that this is part of individual privacy in which they maintain a margin of individual privacy. This percentage increases in Eastern societies more than in the rest of the communities.

And sometimes this aspect has to do with freedom of opinion and democracy, as well as social change in Eastern societies is slow and there is difficulty for the individual to express their moral stances adopted because they are either different or new.

#### **Interview (9):**

***Dr. Mohammed Sadeq / Assistant professor of educational psychology, and former Dean of Faculty of Education.***

For the sample of politicians, there is a belief among some researchers that the political side is not a researchable theme of psychology, but the prerogative of the political and economic sciences. And the relationship between politicians and members of the community is very much like the that between masters and slaves, which makes politicians very influential in the community. This consequently produced a relationship between this category and other groups based on domination and submission. Further, some studies in this area really falsify realities in order to please politicians. Therefore, researchers shun conducting studies investigating this category motivated by their fear of being harmed.

The reluctance of researchers from investigating those samples is that they tend to opt for studies on which previous researches are available and their samples are accessible as this makes it easier for them to conduct their studies. They also often adopt for traditional studies and this is a demerit on the part of academics in universities and researchers, rather than a social obstacle which reflects the typical mentality in scientific research. Researchers lack both originality and creativity in dealing with new themes and new samples. Besides, there are no in research seminars covering these researchable samples.

There is also a superficial view of research, and absence of focus on the trend in the comprehensive interactive trend in research. What exists is a superficial outlook that does not reflect the researchers' ability to fathom the mutual relations between the variables, as well as the lack of necessary tools and research skills of researchers and their ignorance of how to implement the tools. This is a key reason for the reluctance and difficulty of doing such promising applied studies which take a long time. Researchers are prone to conduct studies which can yield fruit easily and quickly. Moreover, they have no desire to investigate topics which can be time-consuming.

Furthermore, the research is closely affected with the social, technological and economic underdevelopment which will reflect negatively on the value of scientific research, in addition to the fact researchers are enslaved to the culture and think in traditional molds, which is reflected on the research topics and samples.

The reluctance of researchers from investigating the sample of men is attributable to the presence of overlap between manhood and masculinity concepts as manhood, has other meanings entirely different from masculinity and perhaps this distinction has yet to reach the researchers. Perhaps some compensatory appearances in men (compensation defense mechanism) give an erroneous impression that this group has no problems that deserve investigation.

The sample of criminals is under-researched because the phenomenon is not wide spread in Palestinian society in the Gaza Strip, and that the study of this group needs administrative and regulatory measures that ban the deep and easy study of the criminals. Another reason is possibly the nature of the research design and the

study tools. These samples need qualitative research approaches rather than quantitative ones. Furthermore, some researchers fear dealing with this category, because they think dealing with them is a disgrace and a cause for distaste and disgust.

Regarding the sexual, ethical, and moral sphere, the reluctance of researchers from studying them is due to the fact that the community is not culturally enlightened, as those issues and behavioral values are looked on as existential and this view reinforces these behaviors and promotes this (taboo), which is found in the roots of socialization and social profiling and approaching them is a taboo. Besides, the community deals with these issues reductively in the sense that it looks on things through one character trait or one attribute. For example, women have a sexual function and hence this sensitivity towards these issues in addition to the existence of a collective mentality and consciousness which deems that religion is inherited and therefore talking about the moral and ethical aspect is to assess the religious side. This view prompts researchers to avoid of all those areas. Many researchers believe that individuals are innately religious and researchers believe that discussing this aspect will not add anything new.

#### **Interview (10):**

##### ***Prof. Dr.Aida Saleh / Professor of Mental Health:***

Regarding politicians, researchers avoid investigating them because this may cause a lot of problems, especially in the Gaza Strip, where there is a conflict between different political factions. Also, researchers do not want to be misunderstood by others.

For religious matters, and clergy, researchers often cannot have a say in religious matters and avoid all studies related to religion or interpret it because researchers by their very nature focus on the psychological side, rather than the religious one, despite the fact that there is a course on religious guidance. Unfortunately, this university course does not address religious issues in depth. Moreover, researchers do not have a religious consciousness, making them explore this line of research only if it is shared with other religious researchers to facilitate the process of interpreting the results in accordance with the religious law and foundations.

The shortage of addressing man's issues on the part of researchers is because they think that women are weak in society, whereas man has stewardship despite the fact that man may suffer from many problems perhaps more than women do. But the male-dominated society makes researchers focus on women more especially if they are divorced or widowed. Oriental society usually sees women as inferior, as opposed to man who can exercise more powers in his life particularly when thinking of remarrying after divorcing his wife or her death and practices his life as normal because he is more rational than women, who are often emotional and this causes them many psychological problems. Researchers therefore opt for choosing women as a research sample. Another reason is the view of modern societies of women which promotes their issues dramatically, and that Islam honors women and this demonstrates and confirms that women need to be focused on by studies and require more research.

Researchers are reluctant to investigate criminals due to several factors, including the hardship of dealing with criminals particularly if this requires visiting prisons and some legal and administrative procedures to allow the researcher to enter the prison. But such studies are easy to conduct by some researchers, who are originally working in prisons or close in their careers to individuals belonging to this category. These studies are easier to carry out by lawyers, judges and staff within the prison. Besides, researchers are afraid of dealing with this category as they are a source of troubles and problems.

Regarding spinsters, the situation is sensitive, they can feel inferiority and embarrassment, and this makes researchers avoid them, especially with the lack of community-based organizations sponsoring this category and gathering them to facilitate the access of researchers to them, and even if researchers can reach them, a few will respond to researchers.

For the sexual field, some researchers and individuals believe that it is banned to talk about this issue in the eastern society whose customs and traditions consider it defective to investigate this aspect. Additionally, the sexual culture among members of the community is meager

The linguistic growth is under-researched because of the fact that it is clear in childhood and is less pronounced in the next stages of growth, and the majority of researchers avoid dealing with it in childhood due to the difficulty of dealing with this category and the research requires someone who specializes in this field and knows the children's needs, affiliations, and beliefs. Furthermore, research tools and scales for this phase and this aspect are difficult to implement, time-consuming and usually administered individually and this requires time, cost, and effort more than other research. Linguistic growth occurs in childhood, which is a difficult stage that researchers do not like to deal with



As for the ethical and moral growth, researchers avoid this line of research because it requires a great effort in interpretation, in the selection of the sample, in understanding the problem in depth, in addition to the rapidly changing value system which has resulted in confusing researchers' ideas about some values, which in turn affected the value system among the members of the community as well as overlapping of western cultures and their impact on Arab culture and the impact of cultural globalization on individuals. There is no stability in the culture of the community which helps to identify the problems of society and contribute to their solutions.

### **Interview (11):**

***Dr. Anwar Alebadsah / Islamic University / Educational Psychology***

#### ***First- reluctance to research the following samples:***

***A. politicians and clergy:***

Lack of access to influential figures because of the of their concerns and busyness

The unwillingness of researchers to investigate sensitive fields (politics, religion) may be due to the dire consequences

The state of political and ideological divisions in the Palestinian society will compromise and politicize any findings.

Perhaps these elites have a reservation to respond to scientific research tools and are likely not to be sincere enough when responding due to the vulnerable nature of their status

#### ***B: Spinsters***

The inaccessibility of the sample for administering research tools.

The lack of clear criteria for the classification, as the matter has to do with culture, customs and traditions. For example, one community may call a girl spinster while another community may not

Belatedness of marriage will become a normal phenomenon in a community keen to provide females with university learning, and the difficult economic situation of young people

Spinsterhood carries with it a kind of stigma which makes it difficult for girls to cooperate with researchers

#### ***C: criminals***

Difficulty of access to the category (procedurally and legally)

They are evasive

A large proportion of the researchers are female who find it difficult to deal with this category both socially and culturally.

Social Psychology is an area that does not receive attention in Palestinian universities.

#### ***D: The poor below the poverty line***

Perhaps this is a class included in some studies without being classified as such as they are not isolated from the community to be targeted alone.

There is no clear-cut standard for defining this class

#### ***E : The man and his role and issues in the community:***

Men are investigated almost in all studies.

Men's role and issues are not researchable topics socially.

The role of women is socially attractive and still in vogue. Besides, it is constantly growing in light of the progress women achieved in the field of education and employment.

The impact of gender programs that focus on women's empowerment, spurred by the assumption that women are still an unprivileged group.

#### ***Second - reluctance to research the following topics:***

A) manifestations of sexual development

Social and cultural sensitivity.

The lack of clarity about the theoretical background of this developmental topic.

If what is intended is physiological development then the theme is clear (ejaculation, menstruation) and this issue does not deserve to be studied.

But if what is intended is the sexual relationship between males and females, the theme is investigated as part of social growth. In other words, this area is split between the physiological and the social aspect of growth and may be subject to study in this way without terming this as such.

B) language development

Lack of Arabic tools assessing language development

Measuring Language development is Influenced by local dialects in addition to the lack of a Palestinian scale specifically designed for this end.

It is best studied longitudinally and there is a reluctance on the part of researchers to use this type of research design, and it is measured cross-sectional which needs large samples of different age groups. Measurement of aspects of language development requires a long time (vocabulary, structures, concepts) (receptive, productive).

Poor cooperation and joint research work, as this type of study needs a psychologist and speech pathologist  
C) The ethical and moral growth:

It is one of the abstract and underlying themes difficult to measure.

There is no strong agreement upon theoretical foundations to inform research despite the existence of some theory such as (Piaget's and Kohlberg's) which are not sufficient.

Moral development is linked to both culture and religion and all that was written on these is of Western source

Method of measurement is difficult and needs criteria and situations. Moreover, direct measurements of this aspect is not effective, and the available scales of moral judgment are difficult and take time

#### **Interview (12):**

***Dr. Yahya al-Najjar: Associate Professor of Mental Health:***

Politicians and political situation existing in Palestine are partisan and thus a researcher finds himself confused and fears addressing these controversial issues lest he face the dire consequences which may risk his personal and psychological security particularly when highlighting the political phenomenon and dealing with it from a psychological point of view. This may reveal sins of policy-makers and this definitely exposes the researcher to danger

As for the clergy, they are affected by the ruling regime in the country and therefore we find scarcity of clergy who clarify religious matters and social aspects in an easy manner depending on religious foundations which may be inconsistent with the policy of the ruler.

The sample of the divorced is very much difficult to access and there is difficulty in the process of communication with this segment especially as the community sees as inferior, and divorcees suffer from a low self-concept and have a sensitivity to debate about their private affairs. This applies to the sample of spinsters as they are extremely sensitive to communicate with researchers in addition to their perception of inferiority of those in charge of these studies because the research will not help them attain their goals

For the sample of the crushed below the poverty line, they are under-researched due to being very difficult to reach and the difficulty of communicating with them. Additionally, when dealing with them they regard the researcher as minister of social affairs, who should provide assistance for them

As for the reluctance of researchers from conducting research dealing with language development is attributable to the difficulty of communicating with this aspect as it needs a profound skill in this field and takes time and effort. Lack of addressing sexual issues is ascribable to the fact that the society is closed and thus dealing with any related problem will be misunderstood and is considered a major challenge to the values, customs, and culture prevailing in the society

The moral side and values in society and related issues do not receive due care and attention from researchers because they consider addressing these issues is social taboos as they uncover the sins of officials and this may expose the researcher for both persecution and prosecution as well.

#### **Interview (13):**

***Dr. Naim A'badleh, head of the Department of Psychology, University of Al-Aqsa***

Lack of investigating the sample of politicians and clerics is a kind of ignorance in scientific research on the grounds that politics is far from the psychological field.

There is also a psychological gap between researchers and political class as a politician considers himself above the level of being a research sample or a subject. Furthermore, the clerics are seen surrounded by an aura of sanctity and chastity, and they are so normal to be investigated in psychological studies.

The sample of divorced and spinsters did not receive due investigation due to the difficulty and obstacles of accessing them. Many researchers are tempted to conduct easy researches that yield faster results without thinking in the scientific and practical value of the research to society. Above all, the prevailing culture in the community considers these samples as inferior.

Sexual issues are considered taboo to be researched as perceived by some researchers. We also live in a conservative Arab environment that makes it difficult to deal with these research groups because going into such sexual issues is a stain.

The poor below the poverty line is under-researched due to lack of operational definition among researchers concerning this group and their reluctance to be investigated in addition to the difficulty of reaching them.

As for the lack of research in the linguistic aspect, we are suffering from a shortage of speech therapists, and there are no specialists in this area. Besides, most academic researchers lack professional applied scientific skills.

### ***Quantitative Analysis of the interviews :***

\*\* Hundred percent of the interviewees confirmed that the reason for the non-selection of some groups as research samples is the difficulty of reaching them and the complexity of the legal and administrative procedures for reaching these groups .

\*\* Seventy seven percent of the interviewees asserted that researchers avoided conducting research on sexual growth probably because they believed that dwelling on this aspect is a social taboo difficult to bypass.

\*\* Sixty-two percent averred that the fear of dealing with some groups as research samples or some areas like politics and religion or the sensitivity of the social status of some groups like studies \*\* Fifty-four percent stated the critical feeling on the part of samples and their reluctance to uncover their problems to be frankly investigated in addition to their conservativeness and the tendency to falsify responses made researchers avoid these samples when doing their research Besides ,some research areas are by their nature very difficult and require minute specializations which are unavailable

\*\* Thirty-eight percent said that lack of previous studies on some social groups and research topics , lack of understanding the nature of academic research on the part of some samples , inability of some researchers to interpret the study findings related to a social ,political or psychological issues forced researchers to neglect these samples and research areas. Another reason cited here is that the Palestinian society is a closed one and it is difficult to go against its customs and values .Furthermore, some researchers opt for less costly research in terms of money, effort , time.

\*\* Thirty percent maintained that the absence of a well- defined operational term , the absence of clear-cut criteria for classifying some samples , the tendency of some researchers to investigate common , available and easy-to-access samples , tendency to opt for individual studies and absence of team- work research skills on the part of some researchers , and busyness of some research samples constituted other reasons for neglecting some research topics and samples . Another commonly cited explanation is the divide and political schisms in the Palestinian society in addition to the prevalent culture.

\*\* Twenty- three of the interviewees attributed the overdue care and attention assigned to some samples and research themes to the fact that some researchers are deeply and closely affected by academic and foreign studies in the West, like those concentrating on women as research sample. Moreover ,some researchers prefer to be neutral in their research lest they should expose themselves to legal or political accountability or harm from the state. Besides , some samples are non-existent in the society like criminals which make researchers feel that these groups do not deserve to be investigated .

\*\* Fifteen percent said absence of democracy in the society and the tyranny of the ruling regime in addition to being enslaved by culture and traditional thinking on the part of some researchers constitute an explanation for avoiding some topics and some samples.

\*\* Seven percent of the interviewees believed that the reason for avoiding some research themes and samples is attributable to the fact that some researchers adopt the traditional theory in research and stereotyping in academic research in addition to the fact that some topics require qualitative approach rather than a quantitative one . Besides, some research tools and scales related to some samples and research topics are defective and at the same time s those related are not informed by strong and agreed upon theoretical bases such as those related to sex , religion and ethics.

### ***Commentary:***

There seems to be a misunderstanding of the personality and function of the psychological research in dealing systematically with some sociological phenomena, as well as the view in the Arab and eastern community of research technology in the field of psychology and tools like questionnaires , tests, or interviews are often defective , not serious, and lack rationality and honesty. Most of the samples deal with psychological research as a kind of humorous experiences or job performance that requires a bit of caution and deception, in which the researcher appears as an agent of the authority or administrative staff member working the with the government. There is an artificial barrier between the psychological researcher and the respondents, which prevents the promotion of academic research in this field.

On the other hand, there is an absence of creativity in the psychological field. Most researchers in psychology depend on copying , repetition, and rumination with the supremacy of the theoretical research at the expense of applied and experimental ones. This may be due to the lack of laboratories of psychology and scientific training institutes. Furthermore , psychological research is often carried out in order to obtain a

university degree or change the professional status or academic promotion. There is also an absence of team work in the field of scientific research.

***Recommendations and proposals:***

The current study provides a set of recommendations and proposals based on the results:

***First: Recommendations:***

- \*\* Encourage scientific research in the field of psychological counseling, whether professional or academic research.
- \*\* Developing research that compensates for the absence of policy research philosophy, and reduce the obstacles researchers encounter.
- \*\* Using community categories specialized in scientific research to determine the priorities of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling and like experts and specialists in the field, and the holding of workshops and seminars that meet the goal.
- \*\* Identifying priorities for scientific research in the field of psychological counseling within a comprehensive national plan at reasonable intervals based on careful analysis of the data and take into account the changes in this period and societal transformations and the cumulative nature of science and knowledge.
- \*\* Bridging the gap between the priorities of field researchers on the ground and priorities of academic researchers through strengthening communication between the two parties through conferences, seminars, workshops and dissemination of research.
- \*\* Awareness of the priorities of scientific research in the field of psychological counseling as determined by specialists in the field, and the actual priorities on the ground, and priorities and future societal needs according to the changing educational and contemporary trends.
- \*\* Establishment of research centers in the Palestinian universities and colleges of education, and achieving cooperation and coordination between them in order to achieve integration, inclusiveness and diversity in research in the field of psychological counseling and to avoid repetition and stereotypes.
- \*\* The need to adhere to conduct research according to priorities approved by experts and specialists in the field and who are interested in the development of field research, according to criteria for judging the importance of research and its usefulness to the community and its members, and thus less repetition of research.
- \*\* Creating an electronic specialized research center in the field of psychological counseling which is entrusted with gathering all research done professional researchers in all Gaza Strip universities and published locally, regionally and internationally, so that officials and decision-makers may benefit from their results, and to work with these results on the ground. Consequently, making full use of this research becomes possible and wide-spread and the gap between reality and expectations is reduced.

***Second: the proposals:***

- \*\* Conducting studies and research that include scientific research priorities in the field of psychological counseling in various universities in the Gaza Strip other than those included in the current study.
- \*\* Conduct research and studies according to the priorities of scientific research in fields other than the field of psychological counseling like curricula and teaching methods.

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