



## The social perceptions of mixed marriages among unemployed youth in the city of M'Sila

التصورات الاجتماعية للزواج المختلط لدى بعض الشباب البطال  
-دراسة ميدانية بمدينة المسيلة -

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### Abstract:

Mixed marriage is a form of marriage in which the couples are of multiple races and different religions. This is why some specialists in psychology and sociology have called mixed marriage, which is used as a legal term to express mixed marriage. It is known that mixed marriage faces many challenges due to the difficulty of reconciliation. Between cultures and religions, it also created several problems between people of different nationalities, the most important of which was obtaining nationality, the nationality of children, inheritance...etc.

The current study aimed to identify the social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth in the city of M'sila. The study sample consisted of (35) unemployed youth (males and females) who were chosen by chance, and to achieve the research objectives by using the steps of the descriptive approach and a questionnaire on social perceptions of mixed marriage prepared by The researchers, after statistical processing using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences program, reached the following results:

- The most common social perceptions about mixed marriage among unemployed youth are positive social perceptions.

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- Social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth differ according to gender (male, female).
- Social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth do not differ according to age.

**Keywords:** Social perceptions, mixed marriages, unemployed youth.

### الملخص:

الزواج المختلط هو شكل من أشكال الزواج يكون فيه الأزواج ذو أجناس متعددة وديانات مختلفة، لهذا ذهب بعض المختصين في علم النفس وعلم الاجتماع إلى إطلاق تسمية الزواج المختلط والتي يتم استخدامها كمصطلح قانوني للتعبير عن الزواج المختلط، ومن المعروف أن الزواج المختلط يواجه تحديات كثيرة لصعوبة التوفيق بين الثقافات والديانات، كما رتب عنه إشكاليات عدة بين مختلفي الجنسية أهمها الحصول على الجنسية وجنسية الأطفال والميراث... إلخ

وقد هدفت الدراسة الحالية إلى التعرف على التصورات الاجتماعية للزواج المختلط لدى الشباب البطال بمدينة المسيلة، تكونت عينة الدراسة من (35) شاب بطل (ذكور وإناث) تم اختيارهم بطريقة الصدفة، ولتحقيق أهداف البحث باستخدام خطوات المنهج الوصفي واستبيان التصورات الاجتماعية للزواج المختلط المعد من طرف الباحثين، وبعد المعالجة الإحصائية عن طريق برنامج الحزمة الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية تم التوصل إلى النتائج التالية:

- التصورات الاجتماعية الأكثر شيوعاً حول الزواج المختلط لدى الشباب البطال هي التصورات الاجتماعية الإيجابية.
- تختلف التصورات الاجتماعية لزواج المختلط لدى الشباب البطال باختلاف الجنس (ذكر، أنثى).
- لا تختلف التصورات الاجتماعية لزواج المختلط لدى الشباب البطال باختلاف السن.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التصورات الاجتماعية، الزواج المختلط، الشباب البطال.

## **1\*introduction:**

"Marriage is considered a personal contract and a partnership between a man and a woman, which entails a set of rights and duties for both parties. Its legitimacy is determined within the scope of Islamic law as a contract that ensures each party enjoys their rights from the other in a legitimate manner, as Allah Almighty says that He created for you from yourselves mates and companionship. This marriage is conducted as a legal contract between two parties within the embrace of two families through official procedures. Marriage is a concept that psychologists are concerned with, as family psychology views marriage as mutual understanding and spiritual, psychological, and human connection between two parties - the husband and the wife - built on this basis. This connection occurs within the social and human values between the man and the woman to ensure the success of the marriage. Additionally, it is important for the spouses to be from the same environment, even in terms of society and religion, to maintain strong bonds and prevent disruptions over the years, as in mixed marriages where many gaps occur due to cultural, religious, and racial differences... and the presence of differences in language, social customs, and cultural, and perhaps religious, practices, thus complicating the relationship further. To overcome this difference and ensure the success of the marriage, family scholars advise one of the parties to make extensive concessions to sustain this relationship, otherwise, it may be prone to failure due to the difficulty of adapting to the other party."

## **2.problematic:**

Marriage is a legal and religious bond between a man and a woman that operates in a certain manner according to each environment and society. Mixed marriage is characterized by being a union between two individuals from different nationalities, and this difference can have either a positive or negative impact on the marital relationship over time. This impact may be evident at the beginning of the marriage or in later stages depending on the circumstances of the marriage. Mixed marriage refers to a marriage between two parties, one of whom is a national and the other is a foreigner, meaning that each party holds a nationality different from the other. For example, a marriage between a French person and an Algerian is considered a mixed marriage for Algeria because the husband holds the nationality of the country he belongs to, while the wife holds the nationality of the country she belongs to.

The phenomenon of mixed marriage has noticeably proliferated in recent years worldwide due to the expansion of various communication networks, which have allowed young people to get to know others - males, females - from different countries, enabling them to come closer and form social relationships and friendships, most of which result in marriage, whether in Western or Arab societies. Additionally, the increase in illegal youth migration has contributed to the percentage of mixed marriages in order to gain citizenship in the migrated country. Therefore, mixed marriage has become a means for some immigrant youth to gain citizenship and has evolved into a culture circulated among young people, crystallizing in the form of perceptions absorbed by youth from their surrounding society and the experiences of others, forming a pattern of societal perceptions that have spread clearly and explicitly among the majority.

Social perceptions, according to Durkheim, are the ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving that appear in an individual's actions as an expression of collective control. A clear example of this is the individual's responses when integrating into a group, such as celebrating a holiday or gathering, where the collective feeling varies according to each society and culture. Therefore, social perceptions stem from the depths of the community and culture. Durkheim saw reality as composed of ideas expressed by the word "perceptions" surrounding the social phenomenon.

This interpretation elucidates the most important reasons behind the spread of mixed marriage among young people. In this study, we attempt to understand the social perceptions formed by some young people in the city of M'sila towards mixed marriage. Some view this type of marriage as positive, bringing new experiences and improving their quality of life, while others perceive the opposite. Through the results of this study, we will elucidate the perceptions of some young people towards this phenomenon.

Study Questions:

This study aims to answer the following questions:

1. What are the most common social perceptions regarding mixed marriage among unemployed youth?
2. Do social perceptions of mixed marriage differ among unemployed youth based on gender (male, female)?
3. Do social perceptions of mixed marriage differ among unemployed youth based on age?

### 3Study Importance:

The current study derives its importance from several scientific and practical justifications, including:

- The significance of the phenomenon of mixed marriage, which has become common among youth without understanding the potential negative consequences they may face during the duration of the marriage.
- Attempting to understand the social perceptions formed by individuals in the sample regarding mixed marriage, which aids many researchers, especially in the field of psychology, in understanding the thought patterns of young people, thereby analyzing their psychology amidst the influence of technological changes and unemployment, as well as identifying the reasons leading to it. Consequently, providing the community with information that can formulate a sound policy to understand the nature of resorting to mixed marriage and considering it as a solution to social and psychological conditions, as well as correcting any misconceptions about the subject if found.
- The interest in the study topic - social perceptions of mixed marriage - and providing a scientific perspective on this multifaceted phenomenon.

### 4Study Objectives:

This study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To uncover the most common social perceptions regarding mixed marriage among unemployed youth.
2. To reveal the differences in social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth based on gender (male, female).
3. To uncover the differences in social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth based on age.

### 5Conceptual Definitions of the Study:

#### 5-1- Social Perceptions:

**Abric** defines social perceptions as a functional view of the world given to individuals and groups to give meaning to behavior and understand reality through their own reference system, thereby adapting to it and determining their place within it (Abric, 1994, p. 11).

### **5-2- Mixed Marriage:**

In this study, mixed marriage refers to the marriage between two individuals (a man and a woman) from different nationalities, for example, an Algerian man married to a French woman, or an Algerian woman married to a French man, or an Algerian man married to a Syrian Arab woman, and so on.

### **5-3- Unemployed Youth:**

Unemployed youth refer to both male and female individuals aged between (20 to 25 - and 25 and above) who are capable of working and willing to do so, seeking employment at an acceptable wage level, but circumstances have prevented them from doing so.

### **5-4- Procedural Definition of Social Perceptions of Mixed Marriage:**

The procedural definition relied upon by the study indicates that social perceptions of mixed marriage are the set of responses from students to various situations included in the questionnaire, which illustrate their positive and negative perceptions of mixed marriage.

### **6Previous Studies:**

1. Study by Amira Arqasous (2021): Titled "Attitudes of University Youth Towards External Marriage in the War on Syria," this field study focuses on sociology department students. Its aim is to identify the attitudes of sociology department students towards external marriage (marriage between individuals of different nationalities) in the context of the war on Syria, and the relationship between their attitudes and various related variables such as gender, academic year (first to fourth), basic environment (rural - urban), age group, social status, and employment. The study used an appropriate methodology, including analytical descriptive methodology and social survey method with a sample questionnaire. Statistical analysis using SPSS software revealed several results indicating neutral attitudes of university youth towards external marriage, whether marrying individuals of Arab nationality or foreign nationality. The study also found no significant relationship between attitudes towards external marriage (Arab and foreign) and certain variables like gender, basic environment, academic year, or employment, while there was a relationship with other variables such as age group and social status. The majority of the sample considered rationality as one of the most important factors for marital compatibility (Arqasous, 2021, p. 287).

2. Study by Futun Mohammed Al-Siraihi, Huda Asim Mohammed Khalifa (n.d.): Titled "The Orientation Towards Life and Its Relationship with Marital Satisfaction Among a Sample of Saudi Couples Married to Foreigners," this study aimed to investigate the relationship between life orientation and marital satisfaction among Saudi couples married to foreigners. It also aimed to uncover differences in means for both variables according to demographic variables such as gender, age, and the nationality of the spouse. The study used a random sample of 50 males and 50 females and employed a questionnaire that included two scales: the Life Orientation Scale by Hafzhi (2012) and the Marital Satisfaction Scale by Al-Ammari (2010). Statistical analysis included calculating means, standard deviations, Cronbach's alpha for questionnaire reliability, and Pearson's correlation coefficient to measure the strength of the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The results showed a positive correlation between life orientation and marital satisfaction overall. While there were no statistically significant differences between genders in terms of life orientation and marital satisfaction, significant differences were found in relation to age and marital satisfaction, but not in relation to the first dimension of marital satisfaction and age. Additionally, there were no significant differences in life orientation and marital satisfaction concerning the nationality of the spouse (Al-Siraihi et al., n.d.).

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## **8- The applied aspect:**

### **8-1 - The approach followed:**

The descriptive approach was followed, which is compatible with the subject of the study. The descriptive approach is a way to describe the subject to be studied through a correct scientific methodology, and to depict the results reached in expressive digital forms that can be interpreted. (Raja Wahid Doudari, 2000: 183)

**9-2-Study sample:** The sample is a group of sampling units subject to analytical or field study, and it must be faithfully and fully representative of the original community and its results can be generalized. (Samir Muhammad Hussein, 1996: 117). The study was based on chance sampling, and the study included a

group of unemployed youth residing in the city of M'sila of both sexes. Their number reached (50) young people, and the response of 35 young people was accepted after sorting the questionnaires, as shown in the following table.

**Table No. (01) shows the sample members**

the sample	Total number	Sample individuals	Total number
men	23	16	45,71
women	27	19	54,29

### 8-3- Fields of study:

First: The human field: This study was based on a chance sample of young people (males and females), numbering 35 young people residing in the city of M'sila.

Second: The spatial field: The study was limited to a group of young people (males and females) from the state of M'sila.

Third: Temporal scope: The field study was conducted during the period extending between 03-05/06/2022.

### 9- Study tool:

A questionnaire was prepared to collect information by the researcher in order to reach the results of the study and verify the validity of the hypotheses or not. We prepared a questionnaire on social perceptions of mixed marriage after reading what was written on the subject of the study and previous studies. The questionnaire included (32) statements, according to a Likert scale with five choices. (Completely agree, agree, not sure, disagree, completely disagree) is awarded according to the **following marking scale:**

- Positive responses in a row (5-4-3-2-1)
- Responses are negative, respectively (1-2-3-4-5).



The questionnaire may consist of two parts, as shown in the following table:

Table No. (02) shows the questionnaire's topics and items

Questionnaire axes and phrase numbers

1- Positive social perceptions of mixed marriage among young people 1-2-4-5-8-15-16-18-21-22-24-25-27-28-29-30-31

2- Negative social perceptions of mixed marriage among young people 3-6-7-9-10-11-12-13-14-17-19-20-23-26-32

**Table No. (02) shows the questionnaire's topics and items**

Questionnaire topics	Phrase numbers
1-Positive social perceptions of mixed marriage among young people	-25-24-22-21-18-16-15-8-5-4-2-1 -31-30-29-28-27
2-Negative social perceptions of mixed marriage among young people	-19-17-14-13-12-11-10-9-7-6-3 -32-26-23-20

**10-1- Validity of the questionnaire:** The questionnaire prepared in this study - the social perceptions of mixed marriage among young people - was presented to a group of professors with experience in the field of psychology and social sciences in order to know their opinions about the scientific accuracy of the questionnaire's statements and the suitability, clarity, and soundness of its wording. And the extent to which it belongs to each axis, and through the comments provided by the judges, (04) statements were deleted, so that the questionnaire consisted of (32) statements.

**11- Presentation and discussion of the results of the study:**

11-1- Presentation and discussion of the results of the first hypothesis:

First: Presentation of the results of the first hypothesis: The most common social perceptions about mixed marriage among unemployed youth are positive social perceptions.

To find out the most common social perceptions about mixed marriage among unemployed youth, we first calculate the hypothetical mean through which we compare the average scores of young people on the social perceptions of mixed marriage questionnaire,  $32 \times 5 = 160$ .

$32 \times (5 + 1) = 96$  The hypothesized mean is 96 as shown in the following table:

**Table No. (03): The most common social perceptions about mixed marriage among sample members**

Sample N	SMA	Hypothetical mean
35	103,07	96

By analyzing table (03), we find that the arithmetic mean of the sample members' responses to the questionnaire on social perceptions of mixed marriage among young people is equal to (103.07), and by comparing it with the hypothesized mean, we find that (103.07) is greater than (96), which means that the sample members have Positive perceptions towards mixed marriage, and therefore the first hypothesis was fulfilled.

Second: Discussing the results of the first hypothesis: After analyzing the results obtained, we can say that they have confirmed and confirmed for us the validity of the first hypothesis with a degree of positivity, by looking at the statistical indicators obtained from the scores of the sample members, who numbered (35) young men and women, where the arithmetic averages revealed the existence of perceptions Positive and negative social views about mixed marriage among sample members.

This result can be explained by the fact that social perceptions mean automatic knowledge, which is formed starting from our experiences, which are models of thinking that we have received through imitation, education, and social contact. It expresses what is psychological and social at the same time about the individual's thinking and his social character mixed with the culture derived from this society. This result agreed to some extent with the study of Fatun Muhammad Dakhil Al-Sarihi, Hoda Asim Muhammad Khalifa (D.T.), entitled Life Orientation and its Relationship to Marital Satisfaction among a Sample of Saudi Couples Married to Foreigners, as it is clear by reading the results that there is no difference between individuals. The sample includes orientation towards life and marital satisfaction, meaning that marriage to foreigners does not negatively affect this aspect.

On this basis, what we have arrived at about the nature of social perceptions of mixed marriage expresses the information carried by unemployed youth, which they acquired from the stages of socialization mixed with interaction and social communication on such a topic. Therefore, each individual interprets mixed marriage according to the social style he lives and according to the social, psychological, and economic conditions. And the experiences of others on the subject, and it may also mean the escape of young people from the societal environment in search of a lost identity with the subject of external marriage as a means of achieving identity and self-realization.

11-2- Presentation and discussion of the results of the second hypothesis:

First: Presentation of the results of the second hypothesis: Social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth differ according to gender (male, female).

This hypothesis was calculated using a T-test for two independent samples and the results are shown in the following table:

**Table No. (04) shows the difference in social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth according to .gender**

Indication	T score	standard deviation	SMA	Sample N
Not a sign 0.005	124	34,30 10,66	94 110,85	Male(16) Female(19)

By analyzing the table, we find that the T-score = (124) at the significance level (0.005). Meaning that there are differences between males and females in favor of females, because the arithmetic mean (110.85) is greater than (94), and thus the second hypothesis was fulfilled.

Second: Discussing the results of the second hypothesis:

The results of the study indicate that this hypothesis has been fulfilled, as is evident from the differences in the sample members' scores on social perceptions of mixed marriage. These differences were statistically significant at the level (0.05), in favor of females.

Through our investigation of the psychological heritage, it became clear that this result differs from the study of Amira Arqsousi (2021) entitled Attitudes of university youth towards foreign marriage in the war on Syria, which is a field study on students of the Department of Sociology, where it was shown through the study that the attitudes of the sample members towards marriage to an Arab woman and a foreigner were neutral. Meaning, the sample members did not express their opinions clearly about mixed marriage, unlike our study, in which female responses indicated their desire for mixed marriage, which is the opposite of what was expected in that males tend towards external marriage. This result is due to females adopting ideas

about this topic through social networking sites. Which brought closer concepts and relationships with individuals of different nationalities

From this it becomes clear that the social perception of the subject of the study tends, in its presentation and interpretation, to the social aspect or the social character and the abundance of internal and external relationships, especially with the spread of spinsterhood among the female members of the sample, while the males have many opportunities that prevent them from thinking about mixed marriage.

11-3 Presentation and discussion of the third hypothesis:

First: Presentation of the results of the third hypothesis: Social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth differ according to age.

This hypothesis was calculated using a T-test for two independent samples and the results are shown in the following table:

Sample N Arithmetic Mean Standard Deviation T Score T Significance

11-3 Presentation and discussion of the third hypothesis:

First: Presentation of the results of the third hypothesis: Social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth differ according to age.

This hypothesis was calculated using a T-test for two independent samples and the results are shown in the following table:

Sample N Arithmetic Mean Standard Deviation T Score T Significance.

**Table No. (05) shows the difference in social perceptions of mixed marriage among unemployed youth according to age**

Indication	T score	standard deviation	SMA	Sample N
0,68	0,411	25,19	107,50	25 -20

	26,14	101,11	and	25 more
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By analyzing the table, we find that the T-score is equal to (0.411) at the significance level (0.68).

The value (0.69) is greater than (0.05), meaning that there are no differences between males and females, and thus the third hypothesis was not met.

Second: Discussing the results of the fourth hypothesis: The results of the study indicated that this hypothesis was not fulfilled, as is evident from the differences in the sample members' scores on social perceptions of mixed marriage. These differences were not statistically significant at the level (0.05) between the two age groups.

From the above, it is clear to us that the perceptions of young people about society

From the above, it is clear to us that young people's social perceptions of mixed marriage do not differ according to age. All members of the sample have the same social perceptions of mixed marriage according to the age variable. The lack of differences here may be attributed to other variables, such as the influence of the environment in which the sample members live, which works to consolidate this. Perceptions This is what made all age groups have the same perceptions because socialization continues with the individual and is inherent to him throughout his life. Among the characteristics of social perceptions is also permanence and consolidation, as they form a central unit that cannot be changed easily. This may be the reason for the lack of differences among the sample members according to the age variable at this stage. -Youth - in which the psychological and mental structure of the individual is complete and the ideas and perceptions are defined regarding the dysfunctional topics that the individual has lived and experienced, and he has the ability to

adopt some of the topics that he sees as beneficial to him according to the societal perceptions that he has formed through what he has heard, from the experiences of others, and even from his own experiences.

### **Study summar**

The resulting study shows that the sample members are linked in their interpretation of mixed marriage to their culture, which they derived from the society to which they belong - and without a doubt - this constitutes great importance in the individual's daily life, and this is what placed positive perceptions at the forefront of the most common or widespread social perceptions, and this reflects The nature of the environment in which the individuals involved in the research live, especially after the recent increase in the number of marriages to foreigners resulting from a group of factors and causes, including the increase in the rate of spinsterhood among females, the high cost of living and the expenses and requirements resulting from building a family, the large unemployment among young people and the lack of... The availability of work positions provides all these and other reasons that have made young people of all ages and genders resort to mixed marriage as a way to get rid of some of the problems they face.

### **12-Suggestions:**

Based on the results reached in this study, we can give some suggestions to guide the outlook on mixed marriage and how members of communities have come to deal with it. The following emerges from this:

Planning to develop programs within the social context for individuals to learn about the issue of mixed marriage from its different angles and what its repercussions are.

Directing psychological and social research to study the phenomenon of mixed marriage and determine its dimensions and role in dissolving individuals' identity.

The marital relationship is a multidimensional relationship. This point must be taken into consideration by creating awareness programs that show some groups the consequences of mixed marriage on the psychological, social and religious levels....

Providing job positions for young people, especially for those with university degrees, is one of the main reasons for mixed marriages, in addition to alleviating the burdens and requirements of marriage, which have become beyond the capabilities of young people, or rather have become impossible.

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