

Women

and Covid-19

Coronavirus Background and Impact on Women in
Yemen in terms of Health, Economic Condition and
Gender-Based Violence

A Pilot Study



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General Supervision:

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Prepared by:

Prof. Abdul-Basit Al-Dhorasi

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Introduction

Coronavirus (COVID-19), which was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020,¹ is a new strain of coronavirus that was first reported on December 31, 2019 and has spread to most countries of the world, if not all. After a while, Coronavirus has become a threat to the whole world, including the Arab region, especially the conflict areas, which Yemen is one of them and mainly suffers from the collapse of the health sector. The first case of the emergence of the virus in Yemen was reported in the city of Al-Shahr in Hadramout governorate, east of the country, on April 10, 2020, as the last Arab country to announce the spread of the virus inside its territory.

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirms, through its representative in Yemen, that 37 hospitals have been allocated to receive patients infected with the Coronavirus, 32 of the hospitals have been provided with necessary equipment, while the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms that there are only three laboratories that can conduct the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) examination.

This epidemic has expanded and become transcontinental virus. It has severely affected the lives of all people of all social and economic backgrounds and their livelihoods until it becomes an emergency situation that calls for an emergency regional response aiming not only to save countries, industries or institutions, but also to save thousands of lives, especially in a situation in which health facilities suffer from fragility as a result of the ongoing conflict and the economic poverty that the Yemeni citizens already suffer. Therefore, any rescue initiative to eradicate this epidemic must center around the well-being of people and the solidarity of the community and enable governments to resume work in order to establish a safe, just and prosperous world that includes everybody.

Under the weight of this global epidemic and its repercussions in all aspects of life, it is feared that women, as usual, will bear the brunt of the consequences, health risks and violence that will generate from this epidemic.

International organizations and agencies have prepared consistent programs in the short and long terms aimed at mitigating the effects of the Coronavirus "COVID-19" on women.² Although studies indicate that women's immunity is greater than that of men, as initial reports indicate that more men have died, the consequences of this virus cast a shadow over women. Women face additional risks as a result of the spread of the Corona epidemic and its impact on women's health is generally negative due to the

¹ Opening remarks made by the WHO Director-General at the briefing on COVID-19 on 11 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.who.int/ar/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>

² The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality in the Arab Region Policy Paper, UN Women, UN-ESCWA, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, E / ESCWA / 2020 / Policy Brief. Available at: <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/04/impact%20of%20covid%20on%20gender%20equality%20%20policy%20briefar.pdf?la=ar&vs=4723>

reallocation of resources and priorities, including sexual and reproductive health services.

Women and girls in particular suffer from negative multiplier effects at the economic level because they generally have lower incomes, less savings, and occupy insecure jobs or live in levels close to poverty.

Most of the health-care workers are female nurses, midwives and staff. Therefore, they were more susceptible to infection with the Coronavirus. Moreover, women's are exposed to domestic violence, from which 37% of women suffer in African and Eastern Mediterranean regions, compared to 25%³ in European countries, without protection mechanisms to respond to this rise in cases of violence due to the social isolation imposed by the epidemic and the social restrictions that are imposed on women to accept these coercions without disclosing them or seeking protection as such reactions by women would constitute a departure from social customs and norms. This study will deal with the impact of the Coronavirus on women in a society characterized by conservatism and governed by social customs and norms that have their priorities in regulating the relationship between members of Yemeni society, in addition to the high rates of poverty and the accumulation of social burdens, coupled with fear and a feeling of insecurity. All of these factors increase the male partner violence against woman. The Arab Barometer indicates that 30% of families in Yemen suffer from domestic violence.

All of these impacts are amplified further and further in contexts of vulnerability, conflict and emergencies, where social cohesion has already been undermined, and where institutional capacities and services are limited.⁴

³ Report on the Status of Arab Women for 2017, Violence against Women: How Much Harm? UN-ESCWA Publications, 2017. Available at: [file:/// C: /Users/Waleed%20Rhap/Downloads/arab-women-report-violence-against-women-arabic_0.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Waleed%20Rhap/Downloads/arab-women-report-violence-against-women-arabic_0.pdf)

⁴ Policy Brief: The Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease in 2019 on Women and Girls. Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/arabic_brief_on_covid_and_women.pdf

Methodology

The study was based on the exploratory and experimental method. The research sample was chosen according to the study area "The Capital Secretariat". In addition, a soft copy of the questionnaire was distributed within the The Capital Secretariat that includes the study questions. Then, the results that indicate the geographical location were received and presented. The descriptive analytical approach was also used for studies related to the topic.

Objectives of the Study:

The study aims to know the impact of the Coronavirus on Yemeni women in terms of health, economic situation and violence from a gender perspective so as to shed light on the situation of Yemeni women in light of the spread of this pandemic. It is expected to come up with recommendations that contribute to mitigating these effects and making remedies for women.

Chapterization:

The study will be divided into an introduction that shows the importance of the study and its methodology, followed by three main chapters, each of which deals with a specific focus as follows:

Chapter One: The Impact of Coronavirus "COVID-19" on the Health of Yemeni Women.

Chapter Two: The impact of the Coronavirus " COVID-19" on the rate of violence from a gender perspective.

Chapter Three: The Impact of Coronavirus " COVID-19" on the Economic Condition of Women.

Chapter 1

The extent of the Impact of the Coronavirus "COVID-19" on the Health of Yemeni Women

Disease pandemics are among the factors that make it difficult for women and girls to obtain treatment and health services, and these factors are exacerbated by multiple or overlapping inequalities, such as socio-economic status, disability, age, and geographic location, etc., which affects women's and girls' access to critical health services and to make decisions about them, and to obtain information on the Coronavirus. Women and girls have unique health needs, but they have poor access to quality health services, essential medicines and vaccines, maternal and reproductive health care, or insurance coverage for health costs in routine and catastrophic situations, especially in rural areas and marginalized communities. Moreover, restrictive social norms and gender stereotypes can also limit a woman's ability to access health services. All these factors have negative effects, especially during a large-scale health crisis.⁵

Three of the objectives of the third goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to (Good Health and Well-Being) support research and development in the field of vaccines and medicines for communicable and non-communicable diseases that developing countries are exposed to in the first place, provide access to essential medicines and vaccines at reasonable prices, increase financing in the health sector and employing, developing, training and retaining the workforce in this sector in developing countries, especially in the least developed countries, as well as strengthen the capacities of all countries, especially developing countries, in early warning, risk reduction and management of health, national and global risks. These objectives remind us of what must be done to improve the health sector worldwide.⁶

There is no doubt that health services have been severely affected by the Coronavirus; The health facility's readiness to confront Coronavirus in Yemen was extremely difficult, given that the health system is currently operating at 50% of its actual capacity, as only 50% of health facilities are fully functioning, 35% of them are partially functioning and about 15% have stopped mainly due to the damage caused by war and conflict or a shortage of staff, especially when a great part of the highly qualified medical staff has emigrated abroad due to the difficult internal conditions, or a shortage of medicines and medical materials or having limited access to facilities due to the security situation.⁷

Women were the most affected group in the Yemeni society due to the preoccupation of health facilities in facing the epidemic and the precautionary measures taken by

⁵ Policy Brief: The Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease in 2019 on Women and Girls, P 7. Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/arabic_brief_on_covid_and_women.pdf

⁶ Available at: <https://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/ar/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-well-being.html>

⁷ Bulletin of Economic and Social Developments in Yemen, issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Issue No. (47). Available at: http://www.yemen.gov.ye/portal/Portals/20/upload/YSEU47_Arabic_Final.pdf

them. In sum, it can be said that the Corona virus has led to a deterioration in the health condition of women. This can be read through the findings of the of the survey conducted by the study team, even though the research sample is limited to the Capital Secretariat, it inevitably represents a greater percentage in other governorates and rural areas. Table No. (1) and Figure No. (1) show the number of Yemeni women being affected by poor health services provided.

<i>Degree of Response</i>	<i>Repetition</i>	<i>%</i>
Agree	95	64.6
neutral	41	27.9
Do Not Agree	11	7.5
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (1)

It is clear from the table that nearly 65% of women confirm that they are affected by the decline in health services provided to them, while the lowest percentage is 8%. This confirms that the majority of women have been greatly affected by the level of the available health services, especially in a situation in which health facilities suffer from the fragility of their infrastructure and lack of salary for their staff, as well as the difficulty of accessing medicines, especially medicines that need special preservation measures. Perhaps, these collective reasons contributed to the decline in women's access to health services.

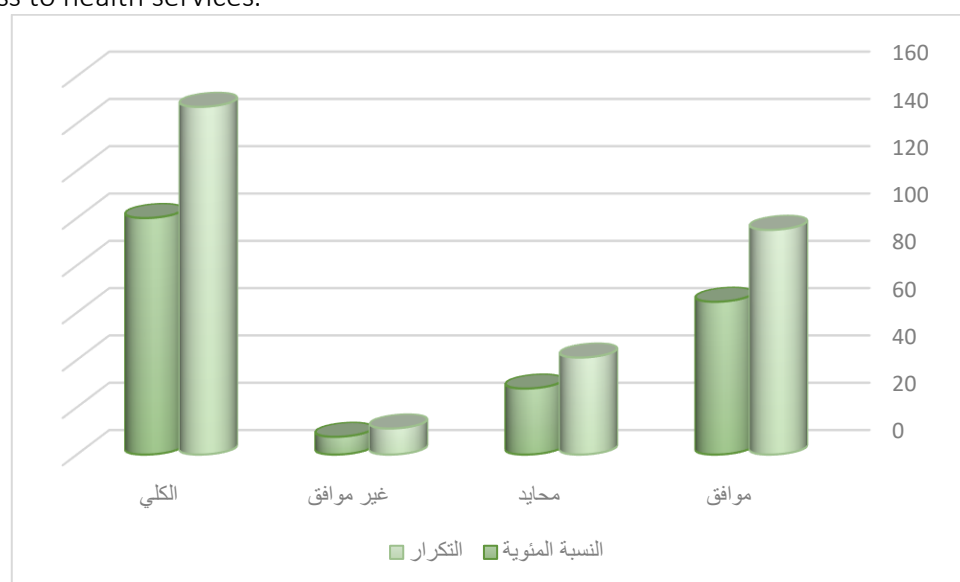


Figure No. (1)

Primary Care Services Provided to Women:

With the involvement of hospitals and health care centers in seeking to stop the infection with Covid-19 disease, the burden of health care placed on the shoulders of families and communities is always increasing day by day. The situation with regard to the primary services provided to women is not much different from health services in general. As a noticeable decline has been affected greatly, as 83% of women confirmed in the survey that health care services provided to women were greatly affected by the Coronavirus, and 7% confirmed that they were not affected, which is a small percentage compared to the percentage of those affected, and this is naturally due to the aforementioned reasons. The preoccupation of health facilities in the face of the Corona virus and the fragility of the health situation in general in a country that suffers from war and the difficulty of transporting medicines and medical equipment within its geographical area.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	122	83.0
neutral	15	10.2
Do Not Agree	10	6.8
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (2)

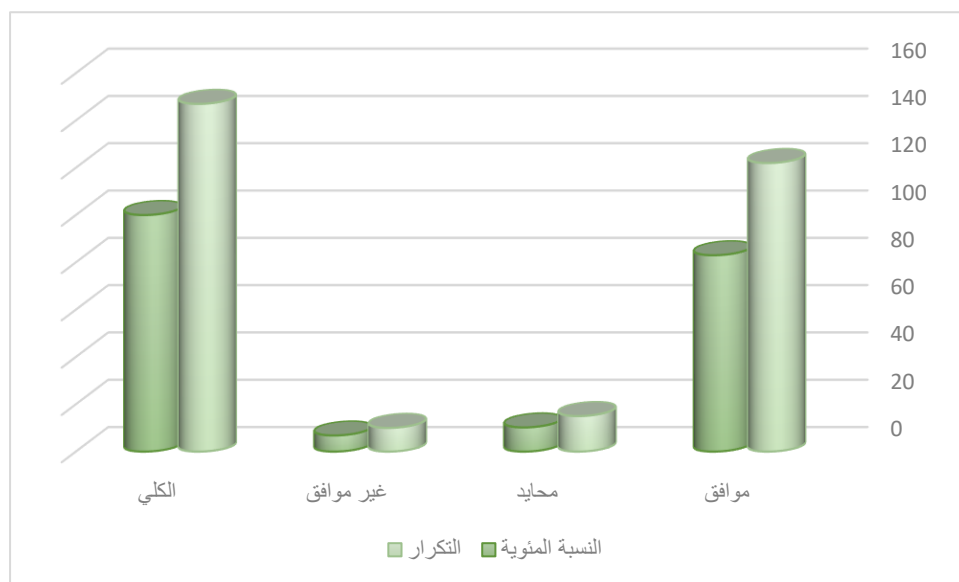


Figure No. (2)

The Extent of Acceptability of Chronic Disease Cases in Health Facilities:

Women who have chronic diseases are also affected. This category is considered one of the groups most affected by this virus being the weakest. This means that families need to provide greater support to their members who suffer from other diseases, including chronic diseases. The health services provided to women with chronic diseases were affected by 81%, according to the responses of the distributed questionnaire, and 0% of the non-approval of this question was obtained; This indicates an absolute indication of the great influence of this group, as shown in the table and Figure No. (3)

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	119	81.0
neutral	28	19.0
Do Not Agree	0	0.0
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (3)

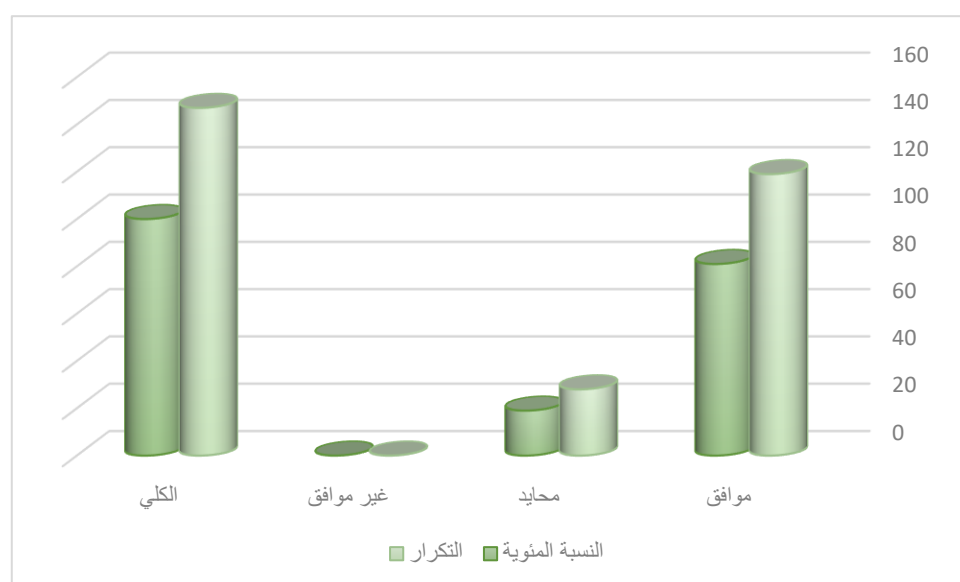


Figure No. (3)

Pregnant Women are Affected by the Provided Health Services:

On the extent to which pregnant women are affected by the health services provided to them, the findings of the survey conclude that the health services provided to pregnant women decreased by 64%, which is a percentage that may differ in urban from rural areas, as in the previous questions. This decline is attributed to the fact that the health facilities concerned with providing health services to pregnant women is busy with confronting the effects of the Coronavirus. An approximately 5% of the respondents did not agree with the impact of health services provided to women, which is a small percentage compared to the percentage of those agree with the effect of the Coronavirus on health services provided to pregnant women.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	94	63.9
neutral	46	31.3
Do Not Agree	7	4.8
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (4)

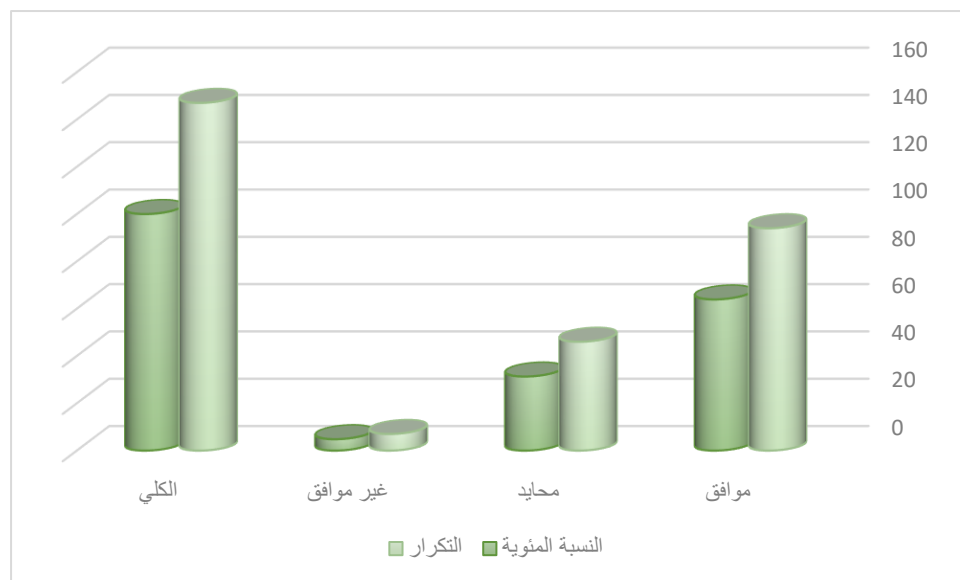


Figure No. (4)

The Availability of Particular Quarantine Facility for Infected Women:

Regarding the availability of particular quarantine facility for quarantining infected women, given that no clear answers were obtained from the officials of the health authorities, the findings of the survey show that 72% of the respondents confirmed that there are no particular quarantine facility for infected women due to the lack of hospitals designated for quarantine for women in particular, and there is a percentage of 3% of the respondents' answers which confirm the availability of particular quarantine facility for infected women, which is a small percentage compared to the percentage of confirmed women.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	106	72.1
neutral	36	24.5
Do Not Agree	5	3.4
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (5)

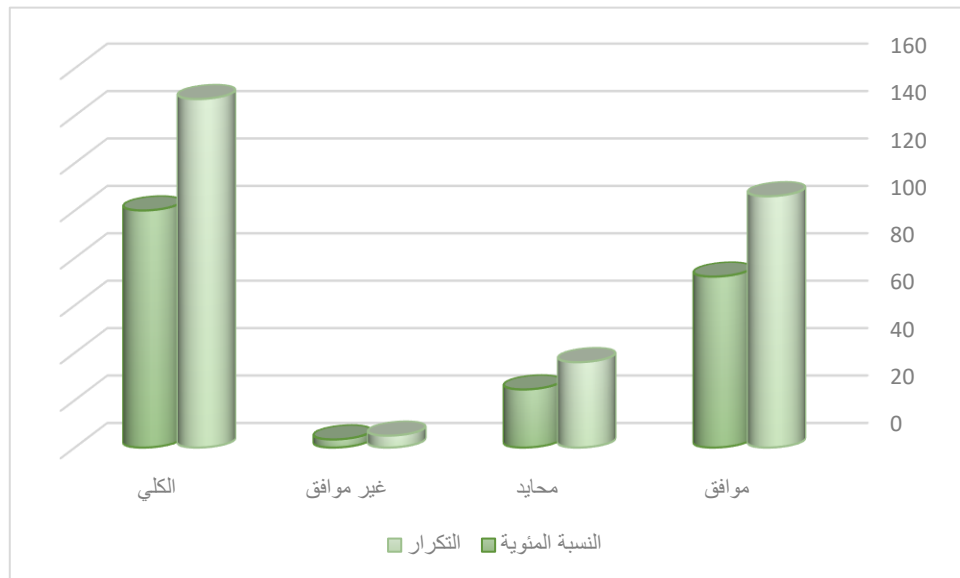


Figure No. (5)

The Impact of the High Cost of Sterilizers and Cleaning Materials to Combat Coronavirus for Households' Budget:

On the extent to which the high cost of sterilizers and cleaning materials to combat the Coronavirus affects the household's budget, 91% confirmed that the family budget was affected to combat the Coronavirus because the family budget barely covered basic needs to maintain a low standard of living due to the conflict and the unpaid salaries. Such factors added burden on women because they are the ones who handle the family budget in many cases. Only 0.7% of respondents did not agree with this opinion, which is an absolute indication of the impact of the family budget to cover the cost of sterilizers and cleaning materials, especially after the increase in their prices due to the great demand for them.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	134	91.2
neutral	12	8.2
Do Not Agree	1	.7
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (6)

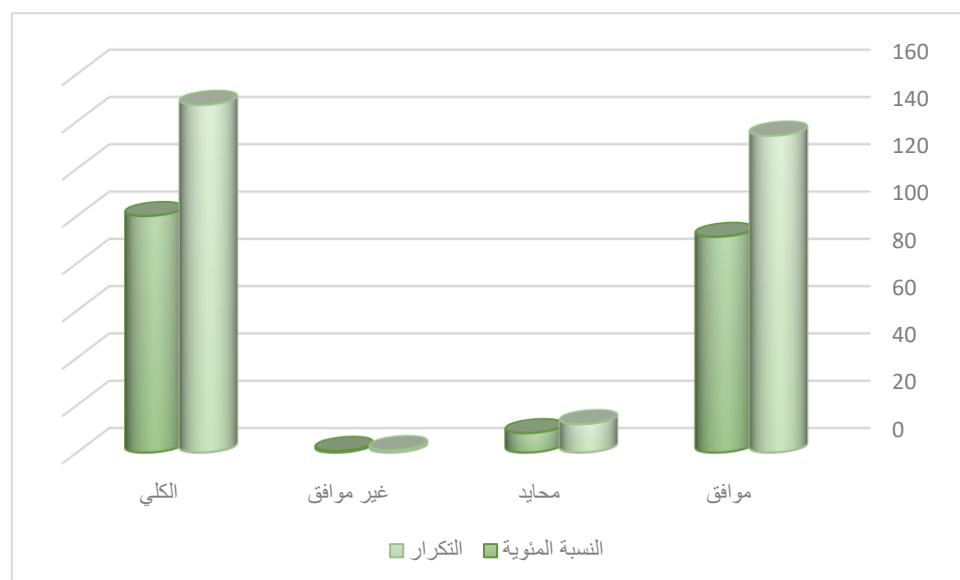


Figure No. (6)

Women are more Exposed to Risks of Infection with the Virus than Others Because They are on the First Line of Defense:

World Health Organization (WHO) data indicate that women worldwide represent 70% of workers in the health sector,⁸ but they only occupy 25% of senior positions, and at the level of countries, including the countries of the Arab region. Data and statistics related to the situation of women in the health sector are almost missing while some of the available data are those mentioned in the Arab Economic Report 2018 of the Arab Monetary Fund, which showed that the number of nurses per (100) thousand inhabitants is (660) in Libya, (618) in Qatar, (587) in Kuwait, and (540) in Saudi Arabia, (568) in the Emirates, (521) in Bahrain, (465) in Oman, and it also reaches (105) in Jordan, (388) in Tunisia, (244) in Algeria, (198) in Syria, (178) in Iraq, (291) in Palestine, (91) in Morocco, (73) in Yemen and (70) in Mauritania,⁹ and they reach their lowest levels in Somalia (8). It is most likely that women are at risk of illnesses or infection due to the gender distribution in the professional field. Globally, women make up 70% of the health workforce, and they are more likely to be involved as front-line health workers, in particular the implications for sexual and reproductive health. The provision of sexual and reproductive health services, including maternal health care and services related to gender-based violence, is fundamental to the health, rights and well-being of women and girls, and diverting critical attention and resources away from these provisions may exacerbate maternal deaths and maternal diseases.¹⁰ This percentage does not differ much in Yemen from the global percentage, which represents 70% of the percentage of female workers in the health sector, and for the answer to the question about the extent to which women are exposed to more risks than others for their presence in the first line of defense, the answer is 51% while 16% see the contrary. There is no doubt that women are more exposed than others due to the percentage of their presence among workers in health services, especially in the professions of nursing and midwifery.

The rate of the spread of the virus indicates that many people suffering from Coronavirus need home care more than others, as well as to be taken care by health facilities, and perhaps this affects the woman in both cases, whether that care is at home or in the hospital, as the woman is the one who plays this role in both cases, and this case has repercussions in increasing their risk of infection.

In some Arab countries living under stifling social and economic conditions, including Yemen, women and girls often undertake, without wages, to provide the necessary services for the physical, mental and emotional health of those who depend on their care, such as children, the elderly, the sick and people with disabilities, and this responsibility falls on them, given that only ten to a third of men participate in domestic work. With the continuing closures in some Arab countries, including the closure of

⁸ António Guterres: COVID-19 and Women, available at: <https://www.un.org/ar/un-coronavirus-communications-team/pandemic-exposing-and-exploiting-inequalities-all-kinds-including>

⁹ Laila Al-Najjar, Moroccan Female Doctors and Scientists in Direct Confrontation with the Emerging Pandemic, an article published in the Kawtaryat bulletin, issued by the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, issue No. (76) May 2020.

¹⁰ Policy Brief: The Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease in 2019 on Women and Girls, p 8. Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/arabic_brief_on_covid_and_women.pdf

schools, the burden of this work on women increases, which may lead to their emotional and physical exhaustion, and affect their immunity against diseases, which increases the risk of infection with COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹

Evidence that has been shared at the global level indicates that patients with diabetes, stress and immunodeficiency have high rates of infection with the COVID-19 virus, which makes this group more vulnerable.¹²

Table No. (7) indicates the extent to which women are more exposed to risks of infection with the virus than others:

<i>Degree of Response</i>	Repetition	%
Agree	75	51.0
neutral	49	33.3
Do Not Agree	23	15.6
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (7)

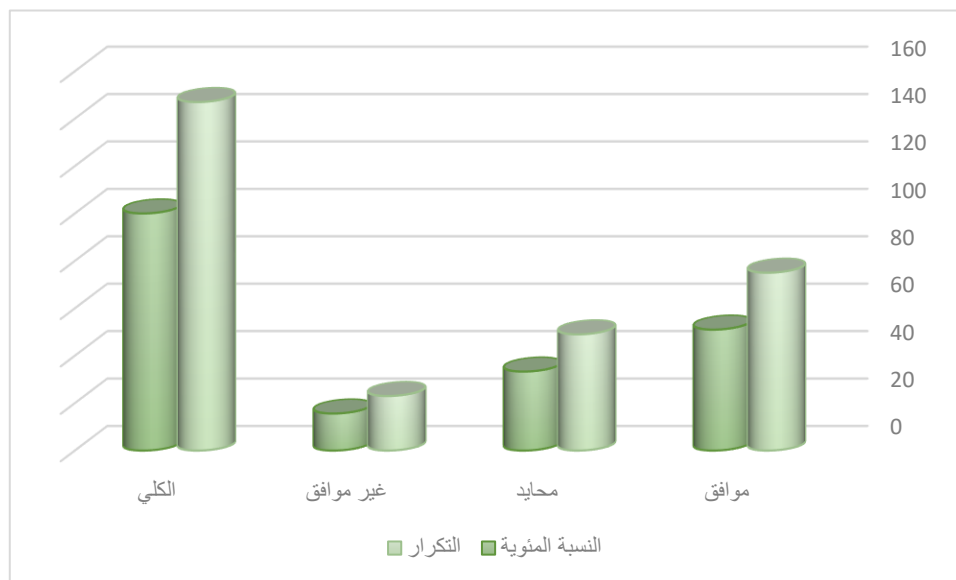


Figure No. (7)

¹¹ The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality in the Arab Region Policy Paper, p2.

¹² Bulletin of Economic and Social Developments in Yemen, available at:
http://www.yemen.gov.ye/portal/Portals/20/upload/YSEU47_Arabic_Final.pdf

The Extent of the Emergence of Mental Disorders among Many Women, such as: Anxiety and Depression, Following the Corona Pandemic:

The impact of the new Corona virus pandemic was not limited to the infected individuals and their bodies, but also caused the spread of many mental illnesses, mental disorders, and depression to patients and health workers alike, as well as those who were subjected to quarantine in their homes, which was confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The new confirmation of the Health World Organization (WHO) showed a state of fear among many people who spend long days inside their homes and workplaces around the world, especially with the economic effects of the pandemic given that a number of Corona patients isolated in hospitals in a number of countries committed suicide. It becomes certain that women are among the most affected groups, which was confirmed by the answers to the question of this context. 94% of the respondents confirmed that women are affected more than others by these disorders, and 6% of the respondents did not agree with this hypothesis.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	138	93.9
Do Not Agree	9	6.1
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (8)

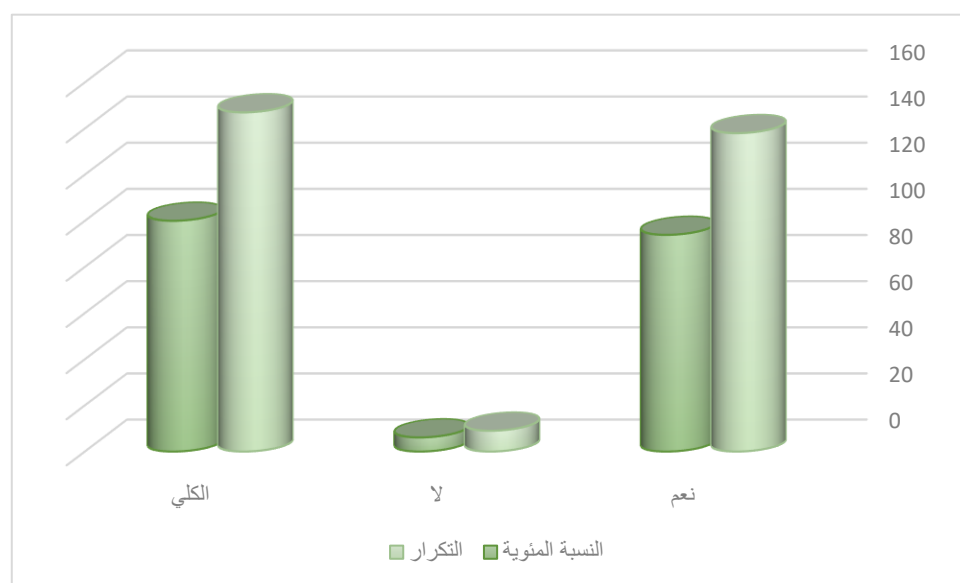


Figure No. (8)

Chapter II

The Effect of the Coronavirus "COVID-19" on the Rate of Violence from a Gender Perspective

Along with the increase in numbers, violence against women has taken complex forms: the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic is used as a threat. Abusers take advantage of women's inability to seek help or flee. Women face the risk of being expelled to the street without having a place to turn to, and at the same time, those providing support services are struggling to do their job. Judicial agencies, police and health services, which are the first responders to women, are overburdened with overwork, are facing changing priorities, or are considered unable to help for other reasons, while civil society actors have been negatively affected by measures of general closure or reallocation of resources, and some shelters for victims of domestic violence became occupied. Other shelters were forced to close or are being used as health centers.¹³

The Extent of the Increase in Cases of Violence against Women Due to the Coronavirus:

The Director General of the Family Department at the Ministry of Interior in Sana'a confirmed that the number of complaints received by the General Administration for Family Protection has doubled.

The man's stay at home for long hours away from practicing his daily work led to an increase in violence, which was confirmed by the answers to the question in this context. 55.8% of the respondents emphasized the increase in violence, while 44.2% emphasized that violence against women did not increase after the spread of the Coronavirus.

<i>Degree of Response</i>	Repetition	%
Agree	82	55.8
Do Not Agree	65	44.2
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (9)

¹³ Policy Brief: The Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease in 2019 on Women and Girls, p 14. Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/arabic_brief_on_covid_and_women.pdf

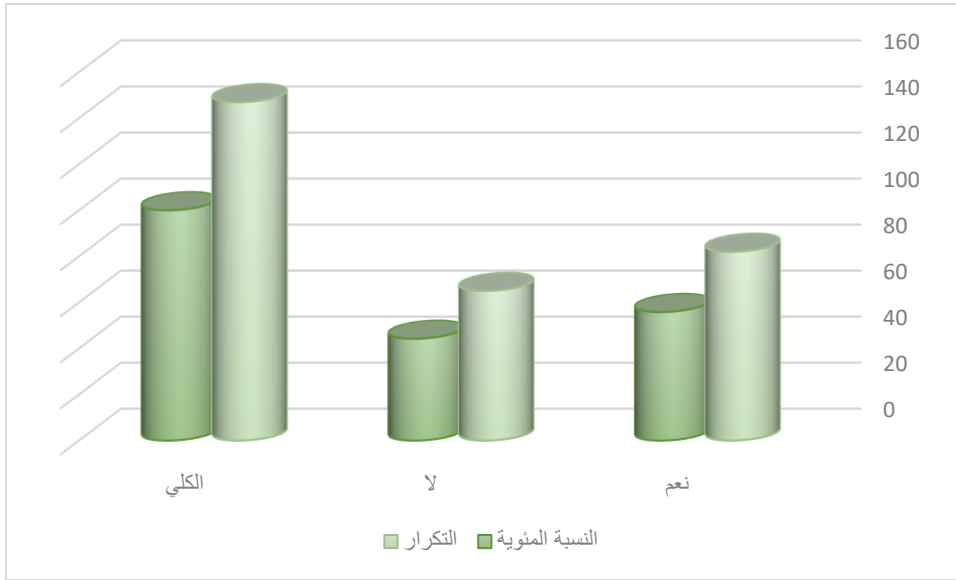


Figure No. (9)

The Extent of Women's Exposure to Any Kind of Violence during the Pandemic:

Women are exposed to several types of violence in all parts of the world, not only during the pandemic, but throughout the days of the year, and this is confirmed by the answers to the question in this context. 18% of respondents affirmed that there was no increase in violence during the pandemic, while the percentage of the respondents of the questionnaire who confirmed that women were not subjected to any types of violence during the pandemic was 82%. This result confirms that women are exposed to violence throughout the year.

<i>Degree of Response</i>	Repetition	%
Agree	26	17.7
Do Not Agree	121	82.3
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (10)

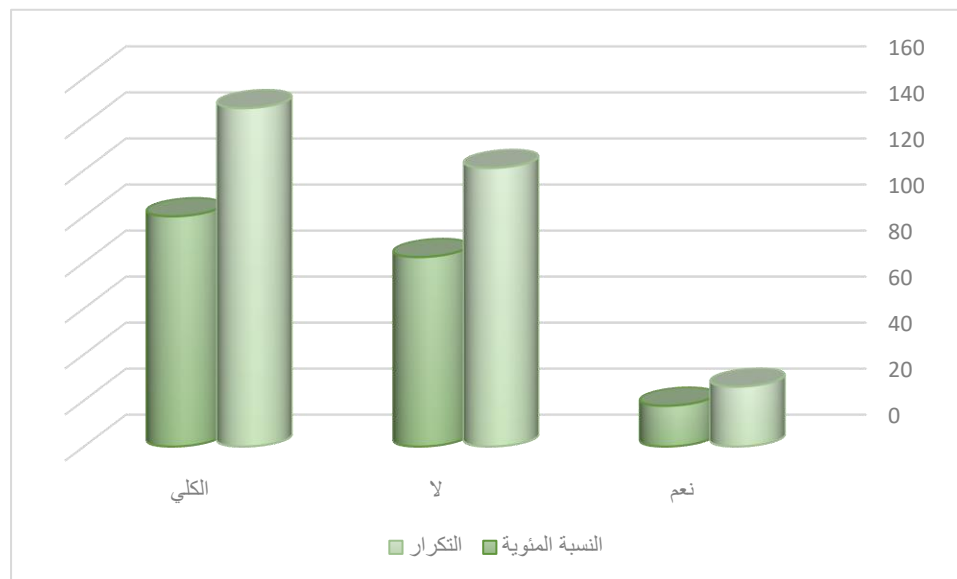


Figure No. (10)

The Most Prominent Cases of Violence against Women during the Pandemic:

There are several types of violence against women, which was confirmed by the respondents of the survey. 53.7% of the respondents confirmed that women are exposed to psychological violence, and 42.9% of the respondents confirmed that women are exposed to physical violence, while 5% of the respondents confirmed that women are exposed to verbal violence. Such results show that psychological violence comes at the top of the list of types of violence against women.

<i>Degree of Response</i>	Repetition	%
<i>Psychological violence</i>	79	53.7
<i>physical violence</i>	63	42.9
<i>Verbal violence</i>	5	3.4
<i>Total</i>	147	100.0

Table No. (11)

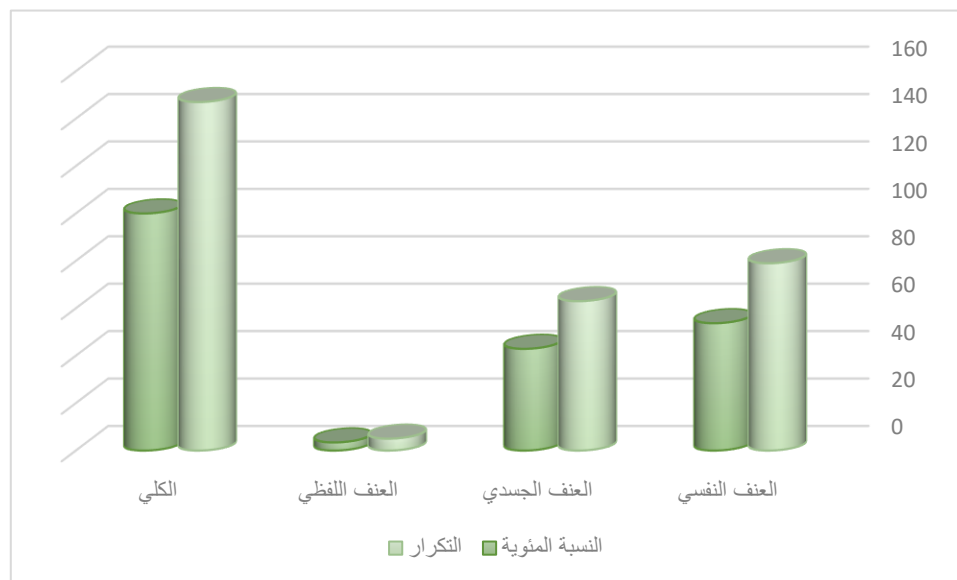


Figure No. (11)

The Most Common Types of Violence Practiced Against Women during Home Quarantine:

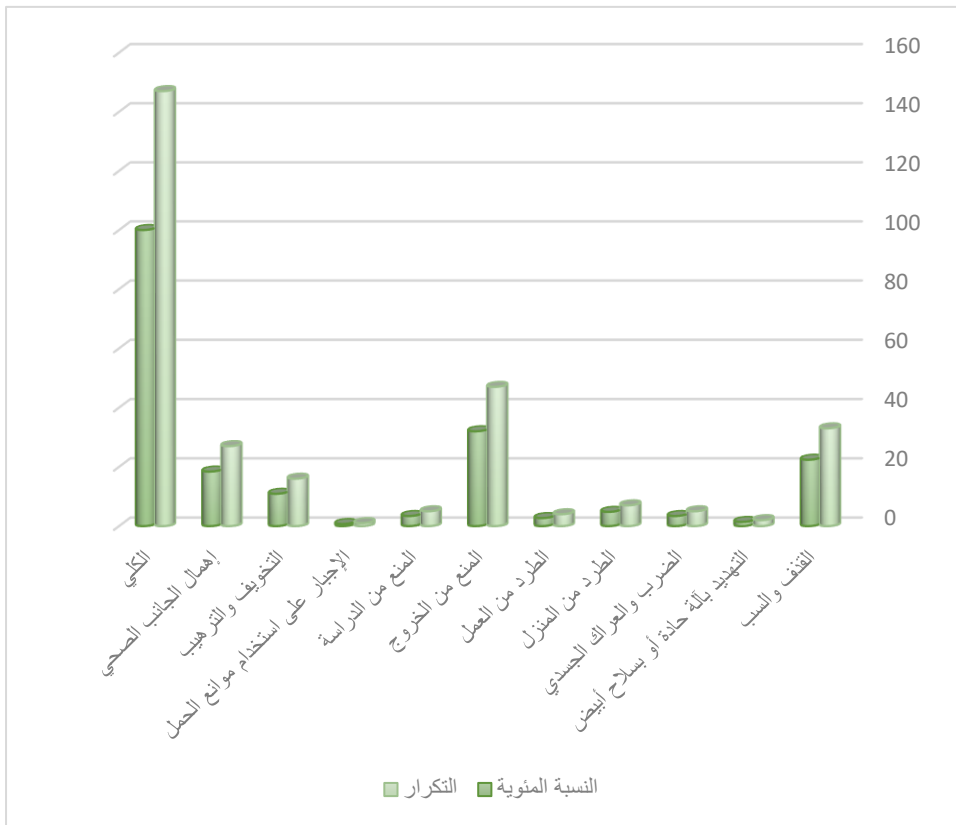
Forms of violence are divided into various types, including insults, threats with white weapons, expulsion, extortion, deprivation, intimidation, neglect and other types of violence. As the results of the survey confirmed that the most types of violence directed against women were during the home quarantine period. 22.4% of the respondents confirmed that women are subjected to defamation and insulting, and 1.4% of the respondents confirmed that women are under threat with a sharp object or a bladed weapon, and 3.4% of the respondents confirmed that women are subjected to beatings and physical violence in several ways, either by hand or by using household items such as wood or plastic or other tools.

4.8% of the respondents confirmed that they are being expelled from the home, 2.7% of the respondents confirmed that women are being fired from work and deprived of practicing their work, 32% of the respondents confirmed that women are not allowed to leave the house and prevented from visiting their relatives and friends or going out for a walk, while 3.4% of the respondents confirmed that women are prevented from completing their education, whether university or postgraduate studies. 0.7% of the respondents confirmed that women are forced to use contraception, and 10.9% of the respondents confirmed that women are exposed to intimidation and threats, while 18.4% of the respondents emphasized that women are subject to neglect in the health and psychological aspects.

<i>Degree of Response</i>	Repetition	%
<i>Defamation and insults</i>	33	22.4
<i>Threatening with a Sharp Object or a White Weapon</i>	2	1.4
<i>Beating and Physical Attacks</i>	5	3.4
<i>Expel from Home</i>	7	4.8
<i>Dismissal from Work</i>	4	2.7
<i>Banning from Going out</i>	47	32.0
<i>Deprivation from Education</i>	5	3.4
<i>Compulsory Use of Contraception</i>	1	.7
<i>Intimidation and Intimidation</i>	16	10.9
<i>Negligence of the Health aspect</i>	27	18.4
<i>Total</i>	147	100.0

Table No. (12)

Figure No. (12)



Increased Reporting of Violence against Women during the Pandemic:

In all countries of the world, when women are exposed to any kind of violence, women report to the competent authorities. As for Yemeni women, perhaps social customs and traditions prevent women from going to the competent authorities to report what they have been subjected to of violence, which was confirmed by 100% of the respondents who said that there is not an increase in reporting cases of violence, as shown in Table No. (13).

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	0	0.0
Do Not Agree	147	100.0
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (13)

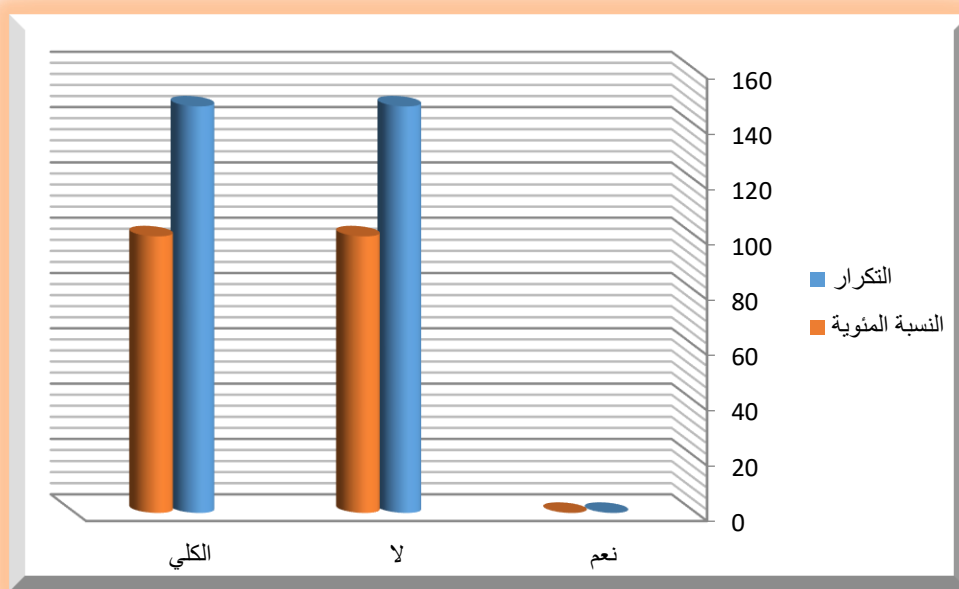


Figure No. (13)

An Increase in Domestic Violence Cases due to Coronavirus over Gender-Based Violence:

Cases of domestic violence increase due to the spread of the Coronavirus, and this is attributed to the fact that all family members remain together in the home and the state of anxiety resulting from the spread of the virus, which was confirmed by 42.9% of the respondents who said that women are subjected to domestic violence; While 16.3% emphasized that women were not subjected to domestic violence as a result of the outbreak of the virus.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	63	42.9
Neutral	60	40.8
Do Not Agree	24	16.3
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (14)

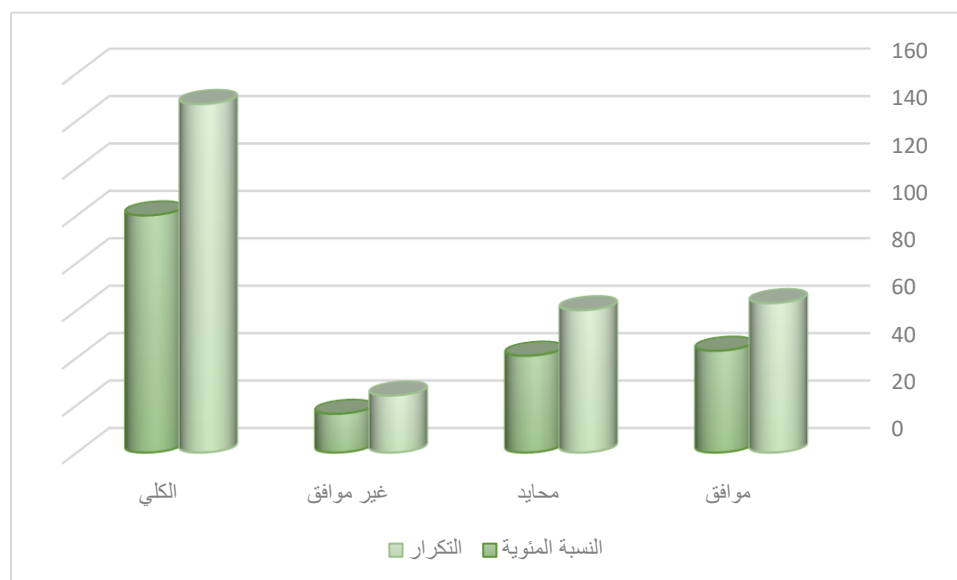


Figure No. (14)

Quarantine and its Impact on the Status of Women within the Family:

Despite the efforts that women make to society in general, and to the family in particular, they have not attained the status they deserve. As much as 35% of the respondents confirmed that women did not gain their place in the family, while 18% of the respondents confirmed that women have acquired their deserved place within the family.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	26	17.7
Neutral	69	46.9
Do Not Agree	52	35.4
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (15)

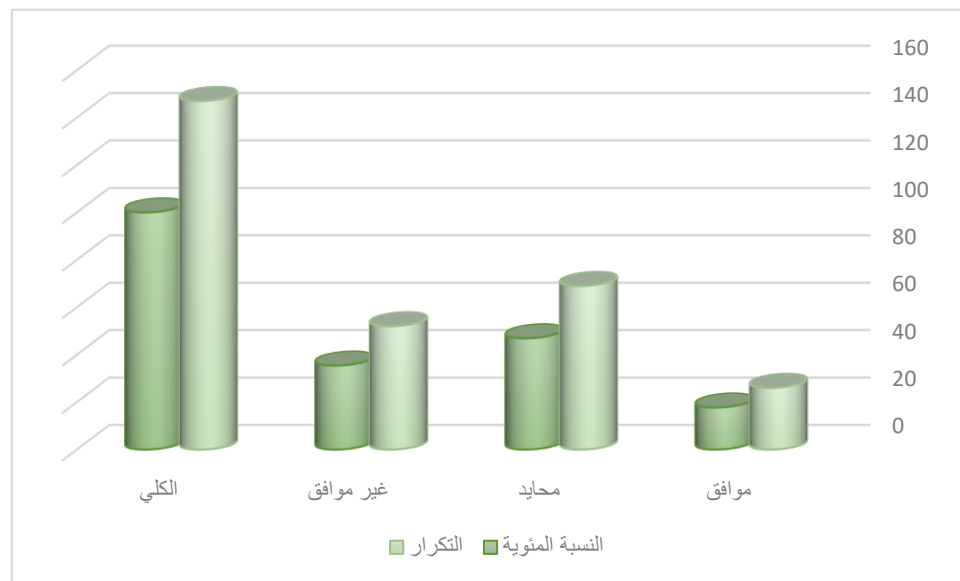


Figure No. (15)

Increasing Women's Burdens and Efforts at Home As a Result of Home Quarantine:

Recent data shows that adolescent girls spend much longer hours performing household chores compared to their male counterparts, and women in Yemen have a large role at home, as they do all the work without sharing roles in Yemeni society, which makes housework one of the roles of women and with the outbreak of the virus, the burdens increased. This statement was confirmed by 85.7% of the respondents, while 6.1% of the respondents asserted that their burdens did not increase during the home quarantine, which is a small percentage compared to the percentage of confirmed.¹⁴

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	126	85.7
Neutral	12	8.2
Do Not Agree	9	6.1
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (16)

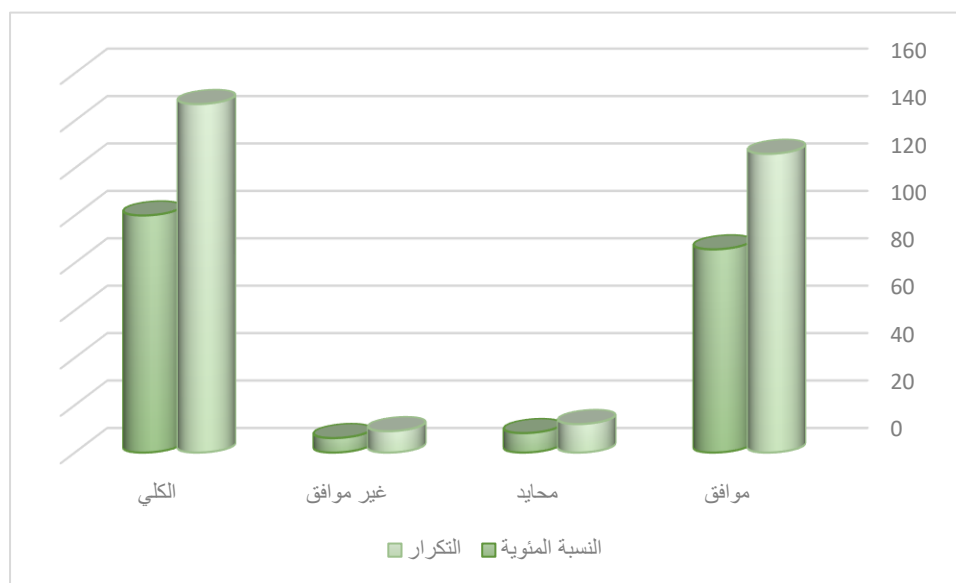


Figure No. (16)

¹⁴ <https://www.unicef.org/media/65586/file/A-new-era-for-girls-2020.pdf>

Quarantine and its Impact on Increasing Work Difficulties for Women:

Certainly, staying at home and quarantine increased the difficulties of working for women. The woman experienced many difficulties in practicing her work, and this was confirmed by 78.9% of the respondents who said that they found difficulties at work, and 13.6% of the respondents confirmed that they are in a neutral position, while 7.5% of the respondents asserted that they did not face difficulties in carrying out their work.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	116	78.9
Neutral	20	13.6
Do Not Agree	11	7.5
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (17)

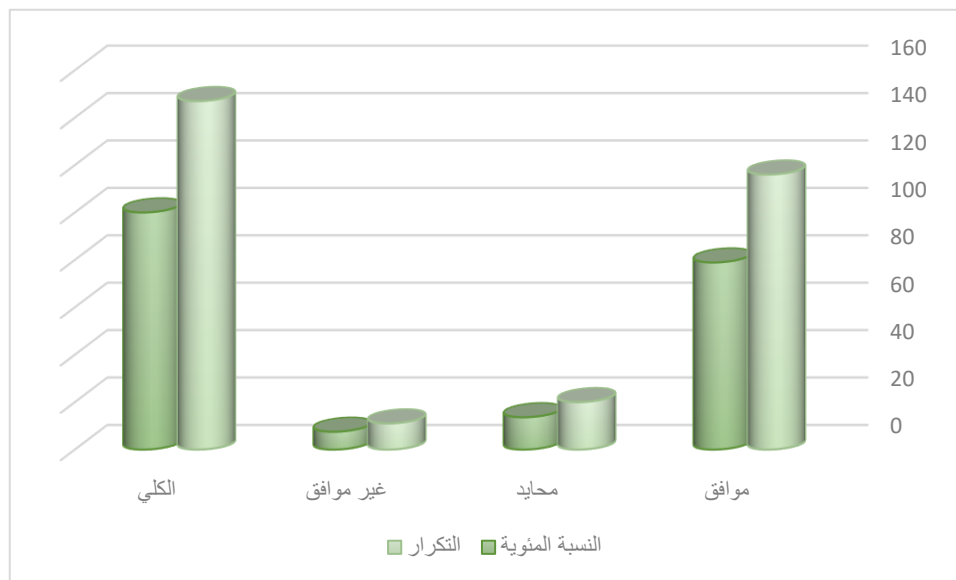


Figure No. (17)

The Presence of the Family Male-Head at Home for long hours Creates Problems for Women:

Women face many problems due to the presence of the head of the family for long hours at home, such as doubled home chores, quarrels, increasing household tasks, and the emergence of new burdens on the impact of the spread of the pandemic, such as the tasks and requirements of household sterilization, as well as the presence of children inside the house. All of these factors doubled the burdens placed on the woman's shoulders, and consequently the multiplicity of areas of quarrel with the head of the family as a result of his constant presence in the house, which was confirmed by 70.7% of the respondents that they face many problems because of the presence of the head of the family in the house, and 19% of the respondents confirmed that they are in neutral position, while 10.2% of the respondents asserted that there are no problems with the head of the family being present for long hours at home.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	104	70.7
Neutral	28	19.0
Do Not Agree	15	10.2
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (18)

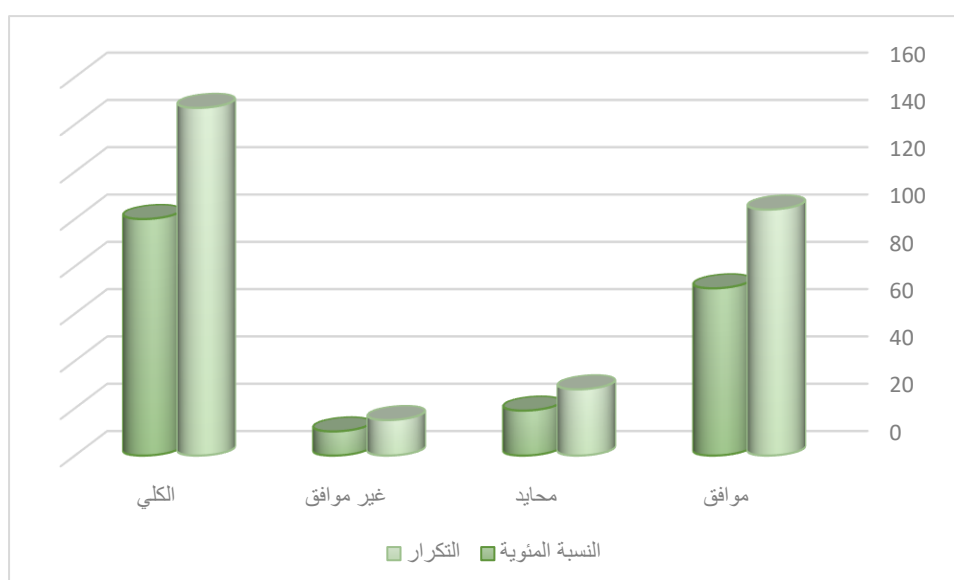


Figure No. (18)

The Extent of the Home Quarantine Effect on the Interruption of Many Women's Usual Activities, such as: (visiting relatives, going out to markets, entertainment) Increases the Psychological Pressure on Women and Contributes to Making them Subject to Violence:

The psychological pressure on women increased due to the Corona pandemic, the home quarantine and the women's interruption from their usual activities. The pressure increased on her, especially after bearing additional consequences and burdens due to the repercussions of the pandemic, including the presence of children at home and the woman's undertaking the task of educating children in light of school closures during the pandemic period, constitutes an additional burden as confirmed by 81% of the respondents who said that due to quarantine and not leaving the house, the psychological pressure increased, and 11.6% of the respondents confirmed that they were in a neutral position, while 7.4% of the respondents confirmed that there was no increase in psychological pressure.

<i>Degree of Response</i>	Repetition	%
Agree	119	81.0
Neutral	17	11.6
Do Not Agree	11	7.5
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (19)

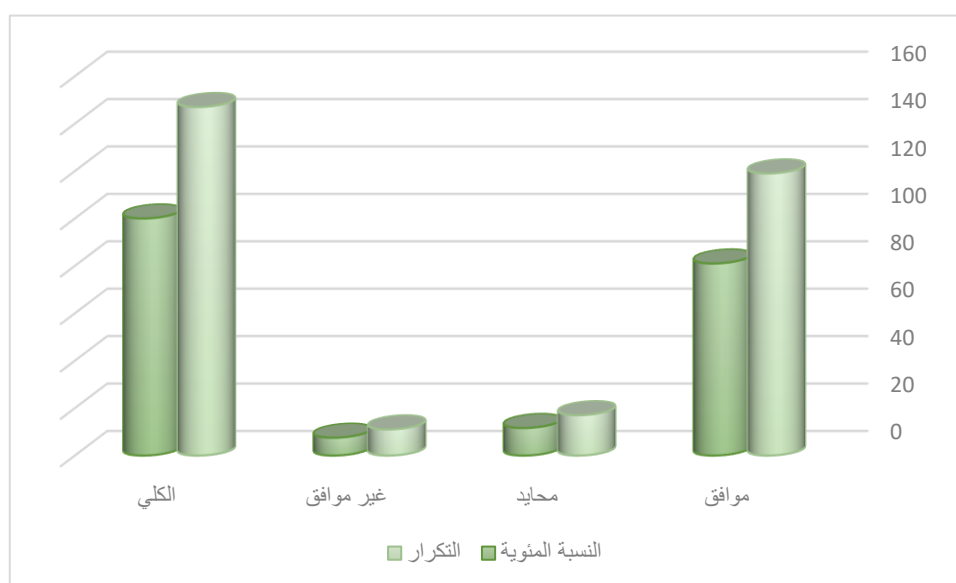


Figure No. (19)

Chapter III

The Impact of the Coronavirus "Covid-19" on the Economic Situation of Women

Women and girls in particular suffer from negative multiplier effects at the economic level because they generally have lower income, less savings, and occupy insecure jobs or live in levels close to poverty.¹⁵ In the Arab region, 61.8% of women work in the informal sector in general. However, in light of expectations that this sector will be directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, women will also be among the first affected groups¹⁶ as it is known that women work in less secure jobs.

The Impact of the Spread of the Coronavirus on Empowering Women to Run Their Own Enterprises:

The spread of the Coronavirus has an impact on the economic situation as a whole, with the exception of the trade and manufacture of sterilizers and their tools. Individual projects and small companies have been affected, including women's enterprises given the fact that most of the women's economic enterprises fall within small projects. To answer the question addressing the extent of the impact of the Corona virus on women's projects, 64% of the respondents emphasized that women's enterprises were affected by the spread of the virus, while 14% emphasized that enterprises were not attributing this to the fact that some activities have not been affected by the spread of the virus, such as the manufacture of sterilizers, disinfectants, and virus prevention tools. During the outbreak of the epidemic, many female workers may have to work remotely, but the ability to have a computer and use it on a daily basis is also subject to discriminatory standards, as acquiring a computer may be difficult for females, not only because of its high price, but also because of discriminatory standards in families that give males priority in obtaining computers when available.¹⁷ The following table shows the impact of the Coronavirus on empowering women to manage their economic activities:

<i>Degree of Response</i>	Repetition	%
Agree	94	63.9
Neutral	32	21.8
Do Not Agree	21	14.3
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (20)

¹⁵ Policy Brief: The Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Disease in 2019 on Women and Girls, p 1. Available at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/arabic_brief_on_covid_and_women.pdf

¹⁶ The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality in the Arab Region Policy Paper, UN Women, UN-ESCWA, ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

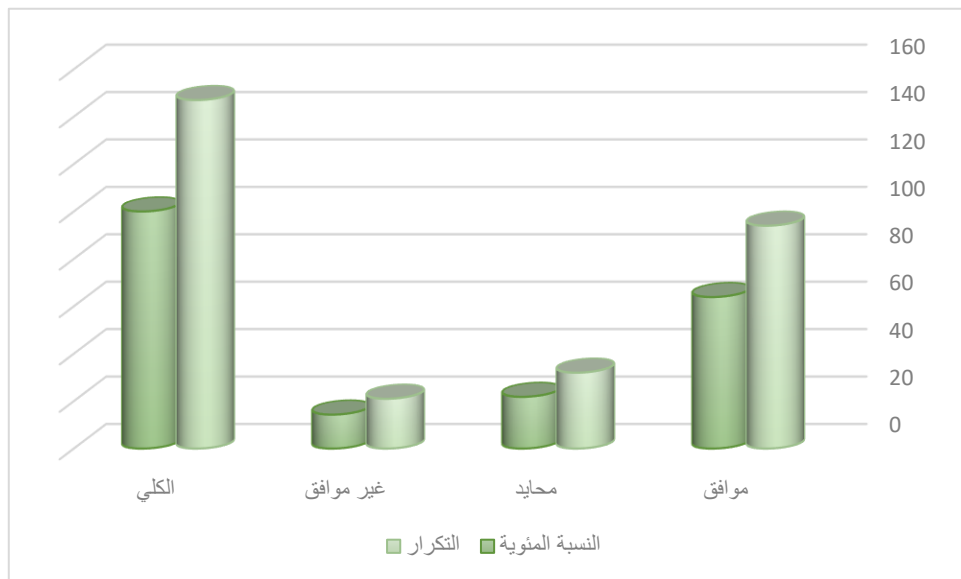


Figure No. (20)

The Spread of the Coronavirus and its Impact on the Decline of Women's Economic Returns:

Regarding the impact of the economic situation of women as a whole, the spread of the Corona virus has affected the economies of countries, companies and individuals, and women were not immune to this effect, if they were not among the most affected groups, as confirmed by the respondents of the survey for this study. 88% of the respondents confirmed that their economic returns have decreased, despite the fact that the overall economic situation of women in Yemen suffers from a decline in the level of income due to the conflict, deteriorating economic conditions, high prices and a decline in the currency, while 2% confirm that their economic returns have not decreased, which are a small percentage compared to the percentage of those whose economic returns are affected.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	129	87.8
Neutral	15	10.2
Do Not Agree	3	2.0
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (21)

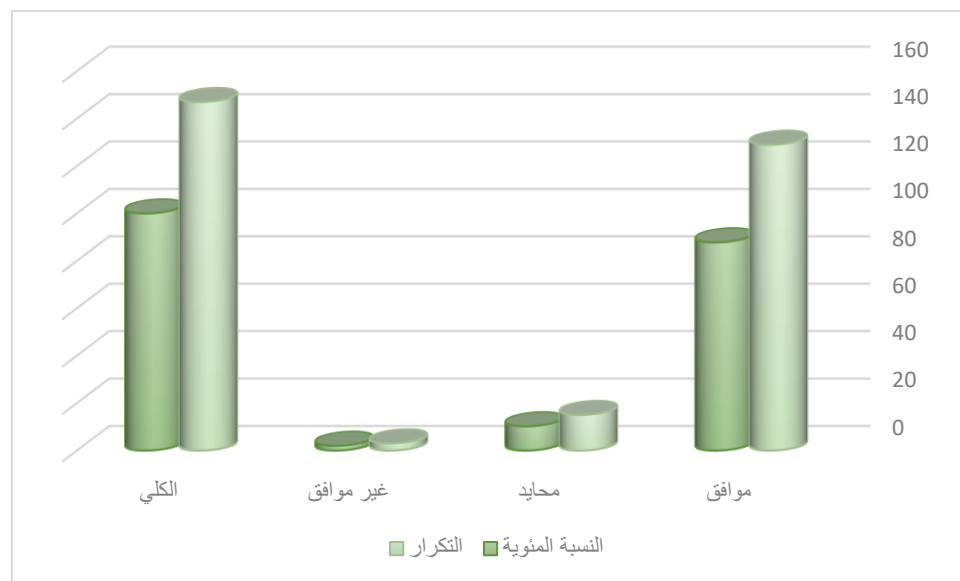


Figure No. (21)

The Impact of the Spread of the Coronavirus on Women's Ability to Fulfill their Job Obligations:

The ability of women to fulfill their job obligations was affected where some of them were subjected to layoffs or compulsory leave. Moreover, administrative decree in public sector institutions granted women open leave in public sector facilities and private sector institutions such as banks and others.

This was confirmed by the findings of the survey where 67.3% of the respondents confirmed that the pandemic affected the ability of women to fulfill their job obligations, 21.8% of the respondents confirmed that they were in a neutral position, while 10.9% confirmed that women were not affected by the pandemic in fulfilling their job obligations.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	99	67.3
Neutral	32	21.8
Do Not Agree	16	10.9
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (22)

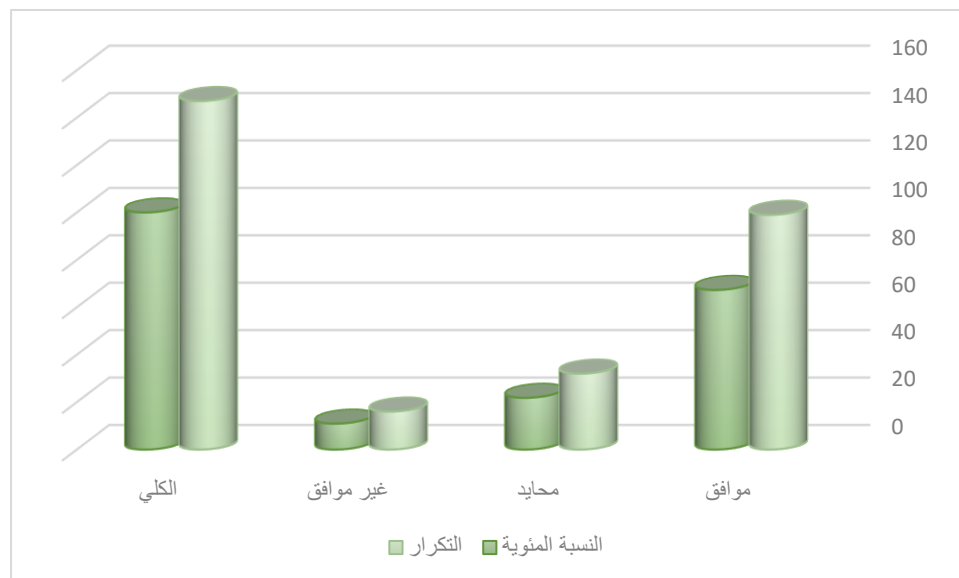


Figure No. (22)

The Spread of the Coronavirus and its Impact on the Economic Situation of the Woman-Headed Family:

Studies have expected that poverty will affect more women in the Arab region, which will severely affect families headed by women. This situation is often exacerbated by the biases in government policies, whose authors consider that men are the main breadwinners for families¹⁸ () while the spread of Corona virus has led to the deterioration of the economic situation of the female breadwinner. 89.8% of the respondents confirmed that the spread of the Coronavirus has led to a decline in the economic condition of the breadwinner women, and 9.5% of the respondents confirmed that they are in a neutral position, while 0.7% of the respondents confirmed that the Corona pandemic did not affect the economic situation of the female breadwinners, which is a negligible percentage compared to the percentage of those confirmed that their economic situation has been affected.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	132	89.8
Neutral	14	9.5
Do Not Agree	1	.7
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (23)

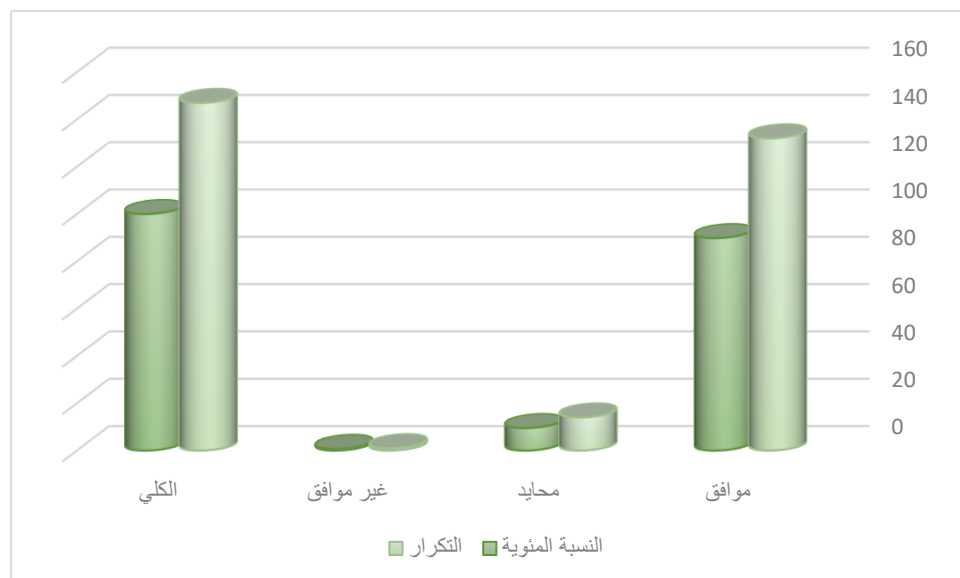


Figure No. (23)

¹⁸ The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality in the Arab Region Policy Paper, UN Women, ibid.

The Spread of the Coronavirus and its Impact on Excluding Women from Work:

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to lead to the loss of 1.7 million jobs in the Arab region, of which nearly 700,000 jobs are held by women. Notably, women's participation in the labor market is already weak in the Arab region in light of high unemployment among women, which reached 19% in 2019 compared to 8% among men.¹⁹ The Corona pandemic resulted in further exclusion of women from work where 44.2% of the respondents confirmed the impact of the pandemic in excluding women from work, 40.1% of the respondents confirmed that they are in a neutral position, while 15.6% confirmed that women are not affected and excluded from their work as a result of the Corona pandemic.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	65	44.2
Neutral	59	40.1
Do Not Agree	23	15.6
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (24)

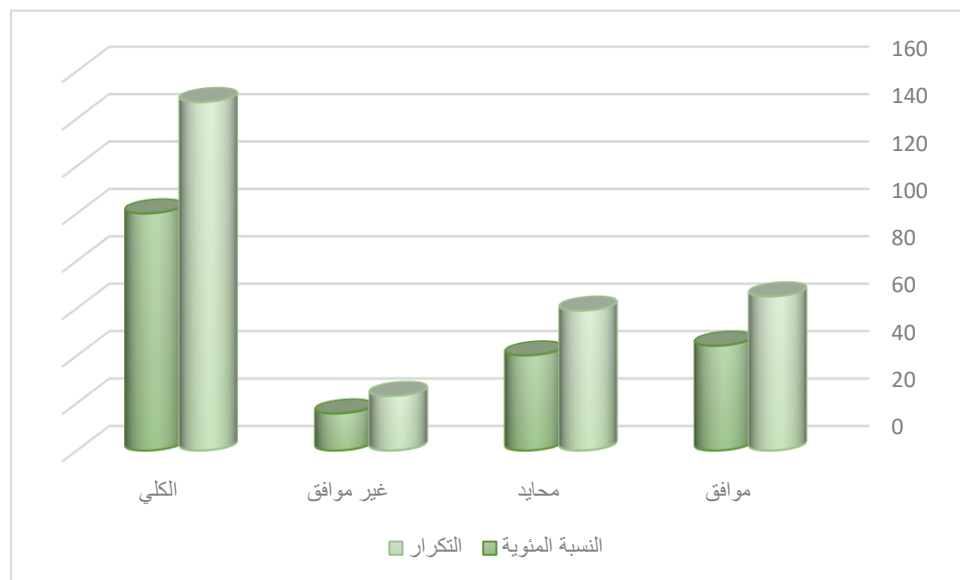


Figure No. (24)

¹⁹ The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality in the Arab Region Policy Paper, UN Women, ibid.

The Spread of the Coronavirus and its Impact on Covering Women's Expenses:

The Corona pandemic has led to a deterioration in the economic situation of women by making it difficult for them to cover their expenses and leave the abusive husbands during the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of their dependence on their husbands for their support. Such issues become more complex in countries suffering from financial crises and conflicts.²⁰ According to the respondents, 55.1 % of respondents confirmed that the pandemic affected women in meeting their needs, 36.7% of the respondents confirmed that they were in a neutral position, while 8.2% of the respondents confirmed that the pandemic did not affect women in terms of covering their expenses.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	81	55.1
Neutral	54	36.7
Do Not Agree	12	8.2
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (25)

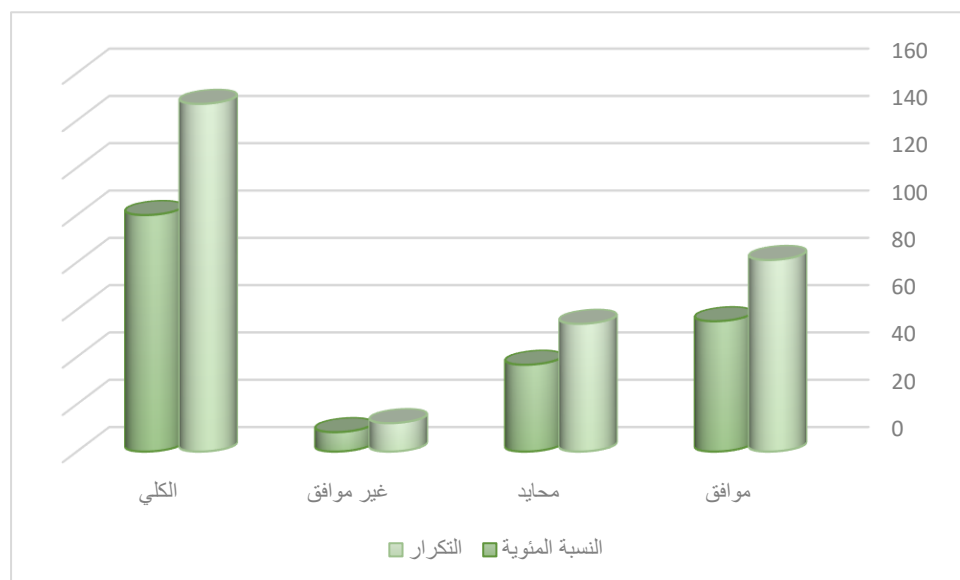


Figure No. (25)

²⁰ The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Gender Equality in the Arab Region Policy Paper, UN Women, ibid.

The Lack of Economic Opportunities for Women in Light of the Spread of Coronavirus:

The spread of the Coronavirus has resulted in fewer economic opportunities and fewer job opportunities due to the deterioration of the economic situation in all countries of the world. The situation is characterized by a more severe deterioration in developing economies in which the vast majority of women's employment - 70% - is concentrated in the informal economy where protection is little in terms of dismissal from work or paid sick leave, and where access to social protection is limited. These female workers often depend for their livelihoods on public places and social interactions, which are now imposed with restrictions to contain the spread of the pandemic.²¹

61.2% of the respondents confirmed that the spread of the Coronavirus has led to a decrease in economic opportunities for women, and 32% of the respondents confirmed that they are in a neutral position, while 6.8% of the respondents confirmed that the Corona pandemic has increased economic opportunities for women.

Degree of Response	Repetition	%
Agree	10	6.8
Neutral	47	32.0
Do Not Agree	90	61.2
Total	147	100.0

Table No. (26)

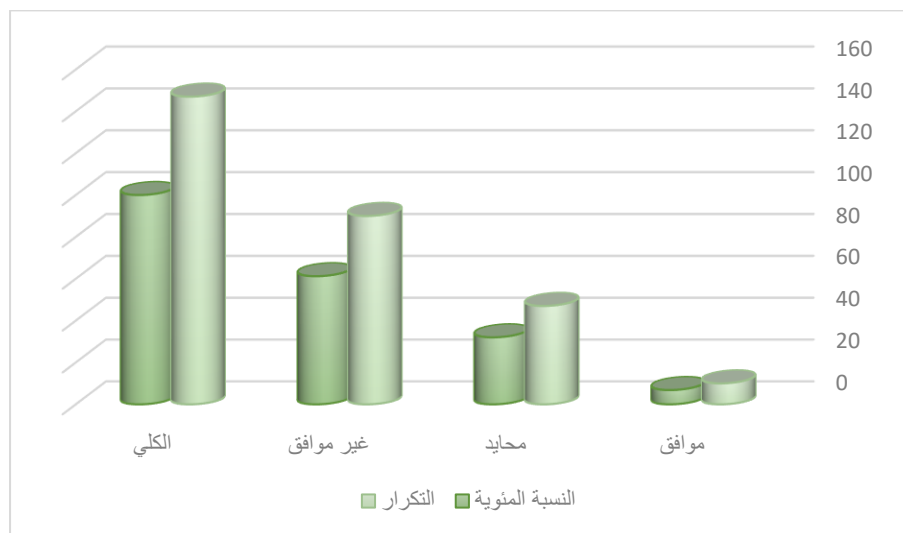


Figure No. (26)

²¹ Globally, informal employment is a greater source of work for men (63%) than women (58.1%), but in low- and lower-middle-income countries, the proportion of women in the informal labor market is higher than the proportion of men in them. In Africa, for example, the percentage of women in the informal work sector is 90% of all working women, compared to 83% for men. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_626831.pdf

Findings and Recommendations:

- Conducting an independent study of the economic impacts on women as an effect of the repercussions of the Corona virus.
- Involving women in decision-making; Including decisions related to quarantine.
- Requiring employers in the private and public sectors to study the needs of female workers with family responsibilities in achieving a balance between work and childcare.
- Providing special places for childcare for women working in the health field.
- Finding urgent interventions for people with chronic diseases during pandemics, especially women and vulnerable categories.
- Studying the needs of female health workers during periods of pandemics and paying special attention to the health of female health workers on the front lines to confront the virus, including midwives, nurses, and community health workers, as well as female facilities support staff.
- Conducting a study that identifies the needs required to provide a suitable work environment for all female workers in the health sector to meet their psychological and social needs.
- Including measures to protect women from violence as a regular part of the immediate response measures to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Conducting a study that deals with strengthening women's economic capabilities, especially during the period of pandemics and finding and funding interventions for women's economic projects, especially during the period of the Coronavirus, and supporting women's economic empowerment programs.
- Contributing to raise awareness so as to reduce violence against women from a gender perspective.
- Adopting the preparation of a guide for violence against women due to the pandemic and the intervention mechanisms.
- Adopting the distribution of COVID-19 prevention materials to women's health sector.
- in the event of the continuation of the pandemic, supporting educational programs through local television and radio channels.
- Intensifying reproductive, maternal, and child health programs during the periods of pandemics.

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