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## **Abstract**

The present study aimed to identify the attitudes of first-year male students at Bethlehem and Hebron universities, toward seeking psychological counseling service and its relationship with gender role conflict among them, and some other variables.

In order to achieve the objectives of the study the researcher adopted the Correlational descriptive approach. A questionnaire was used as a tool to collect the study data, consisting of two measurements: first, the attitude towards seeking psychological counseling service measurement, prepared by Fischer and Turner (1970), translated by Al Qrenawi, and the second was the gender role conflict measurement tool, prepared by O'Neil which was translated by the researcher and presented to a panel of arbitrators to make it appropriate and suitable to the Palestinian environment and culture.

The study sample consisted of 236 first year male students from Bethlehem and Hebron universities, in their second semester of the year 2010-2011. Those students were selected according to a Convenience random sample.

The results about the nature of the attitudes toward seeking psychological counseling service showed that 65.11% of the respondents were not sure of their answers and were reluctant to request psychological counseling; 19.57% of the respondents had negative attitudes, and 15.32% had positive attitudes towards seeking psychological counseling service. The negative and the reluctant attitudes of the respondents were attributed to the fact that the respondents are first-year students and therefore the information and knowledge about the nature of psychological counseling is unclear, few and relies on the stereotypes and misconceptions in the society. On the other hand he results indicated that there is a relationship of statistical significance level between the study variables (the residential area, place of residence, education level of the father, and the level of education of the mother) and the "negative" attitudes of the respondents toward seeking psychological counseling help. The results showed a relation between the study variable "the residential area of Southern West Bank, and the negative attitudes toward seeking psychological counseling help. The results also showed a relation between the study variable place of residence; refugee camps, and the negative attitudes toward seeking psychological counseling help. The results also showed a relation between the study variable, the father's level of education; elementary, and the negative attitudes toward seeking psychological counseling help. Finaly, the results also showed a relation between

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the study variable the mother's level of education; secondary and the negative attitudes toward seeking psychological counseling help.

Also, the results concerning the degree of gender role conflict among respondents showed, that 41.7% of respondents were reluctant regarding the concept of gender role conflict; 30.21% of the respondents had a low degree of gender role conflict, and 28.09% of the respondents had a high degree of gender role conflict. The reluctant state and the low degree of gender role conflict among the respondents were attributed to the ages of the students (18-20), since this age reflects the confusion and the examination of the concepts of masculinity that the student grew by before enrolling in the university. Also, the reluctant state and the low degree of gender role conflict among the respondent were explained as being in accordance with the prevailing local culture in Bethlehem and Hebron districts. On the other hand results showed, that there was a statistical significance level between the study variables (father's and mother's level of education) and the high degree of gender role conflict for the respondents. The results showed a relation between the study variable, the father's level of education; illiterate, and the high degree of gender role conflict the respondents had. The results also showed a relation between the study variable; the mother's level of education; illiterate, and the high degree of gender role conflict the respondents had.

Results also showed that there was a level of statistical significant inverse relationship between the degree of gender role conflict, and the attitudes towards seeking psychological counseling service. This means, that the greater the degree of gender role conflict among the respondents, the more negative the attitudes toward psychological counseling service and vice versa.

In light of these results of the study, the researcher recommended a set of recommendations, perhaps the most important of which is holding and developing the community and media workshops to raise awareness about the nature of the counseling process in general and specially for men, where it is important to adapt the therapeutic programs to the different natures of men and especially to the traditional men. The study has also recommended holding further studies that focuses on studying the attitude of men towards seeking psychological counseling service and the different attributes that affect these attitudes.

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