

---

**ABSTRACTS: VOLUME 3, SPECIAL ISSUE**

---

**ABSTRACT**

**Delayed Parenthood and the Importance of Assisted Reproductive Technology in Palestine**

*Mariam Alqam, Dr. Mahomoud Khalid.*

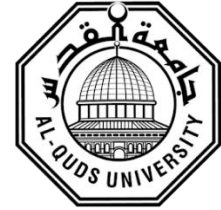
*Al-Quds Bard College, Al-Quds University, Palestine.*

**Published in May 2022**

**Background:** The study discusses how delayed parenthood affects the reproductive capacity of middle-aged women (30-50 y.o). It also presents issues related to delaying parenthood such as the rise of effective contraception, housing conditions, educational attainment, labor force participation for women, and economic uncertainty.

**Objectives:**

- 1-Identify the medical and socio-economic factors for infertility
- 2-Investigate how educational attainment and increased labor force participation for women affects delayed parenthood in Palestine.
- 3- Explain why assessing the reproductive reserve of middle-aged women and improving ARTs in Palestine is important
- 4-Collect clinical statistical data from an ART and IVF fertility center in Palestine and assess the difference in pregnancy success rates between young and middle-aged women.



5-Conduct a survey asking Palestinian undergraduate students about their views on marriage and having children in the future, and if they would be willing to seek ART incase their partner faces infertility.

6-Recommend and suggest policies for the policy making authorities to help infertile middle-aged Palestinian women conceive.

**Methods:** Quantitative and qualitative data were collected; a quantitative clinical statistical data from a Palestinian fertility center located in Ramallah. The aim was to measure how the number of eggs retrieved affects pregnancy success rates in three Age Brackets, and if the place of residence or household income of the couple has a relationship with pregnancy success rate, and a qualitative data from a survey distributed among university students to observe their views on marriage and having children, and if they would be willing to seek ART in case of primary or secondary infertility.

**Results:** In the clinical research, as the age of a woman increased, the mean number of her eggs retrieved decreased: Young  $15.00 \pm 9.52$ , Middle-age  $13.05 \pm 7.59$ , Old  $6.94 \pm 6.18$ .

Most of the women were housewives. Most husbands had a blue-collar job. Place of residence was not significant.

I also had unpredicted results; pregnancy success rate for Old women was higher than Middle-aged women, 38.9% vs 43.5% respectively. (61.3% in Young). Moreover, In the regression table, Age Bracket played a significance on the pregnancy success rate until the (Blue-collar Job) variable was added.

In the survey, the most preferred age for childbirth among all majors and genders was between 26-29. For women studying Medicine, the age was skewed older (30-34). Most students, especially females prefer both partners to invest in household income.



---

**Conclusion:** There is a negative correlation between age and pregnancy success rate. The regression analysis showed the following factors were independently and significantly related to higher pregnancy rates: younger age, White-collar Job of at least one of the partners, and a greater number of mature follicles. Increased infertility rates in the future should be expected as women delay parenthood to pursue their education and careers. On the basis of analysis, the major recommendations are: to allocate necessary resources to improve treatment facilities and ART in Palestine, particularly for middle-aged women; to advocate for the rights of sub-fertile couples to have appropriate access to infertility care; to support data gathering and research about infertility prevalence, risk factors, quality of services, and impact of ART on the public health system; to provide biomedical and socio-economic support for couples with primary and secondary infertility such as easier access to medical services, and insurance coverage for treatment.