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The Level of Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate and Its Relationship to Their Quality of Life^(*)

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مستوى الوعي النسوي بمؤشرات التمكين الاجتماعي لدى النساء الفلسطينيات العاملات في محافظة طولكرم وعلاقته بجودة حياتهن

د/ نظمية فخري خليل حجازي
أستاذ الفلسفة في الخدمة الاجتماعية
بقسم الخدمة الاجتماعية، كلية التنمية الاجتماعية والأسرية
بجامعة القدس المفتوحة، فلسطين

الملخص

هدفت الدراسة إلى التعرف على مستوى الوعي النسوي بمؤشرات التمكين الاجتماعي لدى المرأة الفلسطينية العاملة في محافظة طولكرم، ومدى ارتباط ذلك بجودة حياتها، واعتمدت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي الارتباطي، باستخدام الاستبيان كأداة لجمع البيانات من عينة مكونة من (500) مشاركة، وأظهرت النتائج أن مستوى الوعي النسوي بمؤشرات التمكين الاجتماعي كان مرتفعاً، وأن هناك علاقة إيجابية بين هذا الوعي وجودة الحياة لدى النساء العاملات، كما كشفت النتائج عن فروق في مستوى الوعي تعزى إلى متغير العمر، بينما لم تُسجل فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية بناءً على الحالة الاجتماعية. وفي ضوء النتائج، أوصت الدراسة بتعزيز التعاون بين المؤسسات الحكومية ومنظمات المجتمع المدني لتطوير برامج تنموية تستهدف المرأة العاملة، بما يساهم في رفع مستوى وعيها النسوي بالتمكين الاجتماعي. كما دعت إلى دعم وتمكين المؤسسات النسوية الفلسطينية لتكون حاضنة فعالة تعزز هذا الوعي وتساهم في تحسين جودة حياة النساء.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الوعي النسوي، التمكين الاجتماعي، المرأة، الجودة.



The Level of Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate and Its Relationship to Their Quality of Life

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Abstract

The study aimed to identify the level of feminist awareness of indicators of social empowerment, among Palestinian women working in Tulkarm Governorate and its relationship to the quality of their lives, grounded in feminist and empowerment theories. A correlative descriptive approach is used, and the questionnaire serves as the instrument. The sample consists of 500 women. Results show that the overall level of feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators and its relationship to quality of life is high. Differences appear due to age, while no differences are found due to marital status. Based on the findings, several recommendations are proposed, including the development of programs for working Palestinian women through collaboration between governmental institutions and civil society organizations to enhance their feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators, and strengthening the capacities of Palestinian women's institutions to embrace women and raise their awareness, thereby contributing to improved quality of life.

Keywords: Feminist awareness, social empowerment, quality, women.

Introduction:

Women are considered active agents and one of the most indispensable human resources for achieving comprehensive development. They represent half of society, and their role is not limited to receiving developmental services; rather, they are essential partners in formulating and implementing developmental plans and projects. Women's issues have received significant attention throughout history and continue to be a central topic of discussion, albeit in contemporary forms aligned with modern-day requirements. With increasing focus on the social dimension and the adoption of systematic scientific approaches, the social status of women has become a benchmark for assessing the progress and development of societies. No society can flourish without the active participation of its women in all aspects of development. Hence, the importance of cooperation between states and societies to socially empower women and provide them with full opportunities to contribute to building a better future for all becomes evident.

Social empowerment of women entails enhancing their capacity to expand their choices, participate in decision-making concerning their lives and families, and take on leadership roles within their communities. It also involves preventing practices that perpetuate discrimination against women or harm them in public and private spheres and assisting them in obtaining their rights in various fields (Jadallah, 2021).

Social empowerment provides women with greater access to resources, knowledge, skills, and information needed to improve their living conditions and achieve their goals. This aims to strengthen their ability to make positive contributions to the welfare of their families and the advancement of their communities in social, economic, and political fields. Women exercise their full capacities to build a social culture consistent with their status and role, enabling them to care for their families and fulfill their duties towards relatives and society without negligence, all grounded in an informed understanding of the essence of Islamic teachings (Al-Muajel, 2020, p.386).

The role of social empowerment extends beyond mere access to resources and opportunities; it also involves developing feminist awareness of the significance of empowerment and its role in achieving progress at all

levels. Feminist awareness is a key driver for positive change in society as it helps women understand their rights, potentials, and the challenges they face, enabling them to make informed decisions and actively participate in all aspects of social and political life. Moreover, feminist awareness plays a vital role in transforming outdated concepts, customs, and traditions that limit women's aspirations and hinder their progress. It promotes the adoption of gender equality, contributing to a more just and equitable society. Thus, feminist awareness is a driving force for social, economic, and cultural change and is an essential element in achieving comprehensive empowerment for women.

The socially empowered woman's quality of life refers to her ability to live a life filled with opportunities, rights, and equality in society. Achieving such a quality of life requires numerous factors and contributions, reflected in women enjoying the same opportunities and rights as men in education, employment, political participation, and other areas. Women have equal access to education, enabling them to develop their skills and excel in various fields. They also enjoy freedom of choice and the ability to act independently in their lives, feeling safe and protected from violence and discrimination. Additionally, it includes raising awareness of their rights and abilities and guiding them to express themselves and participate effectively in their communities (Abbas & Sahib, 2023).

Feminist awareness of the importance of social empowerment can positively impact women's quality of life and that of society as a whole. When women recognize their rights and understand their societal roles, their confidence and capabilities increase, helping them achieve their goals and aspirations with greater satisfaction in life. Women who are aware of their health rights and can access health services enjoy better health and contribute to the well-being of their families. This empowers women to develop their skills and increase their opportunities in the labor market, leading to better job prospects and higher income levels. All of this enhances social and family relationships, as women who understand their rights and responsibilities can interact better with their families and communities (Ladbes, 2022, p.253).

Research Problem:

The issue of women's social empowerment is of significant importance, requiring adequate feminist awareness to enable women to achieve their social and other goals. According to Khan and Bibi (2011), their study showed improvements in quantitative indicators of women's capacity building and participation in economic activities. In Palestinian society, women constitute half of the population; however, their social inclusion indicators remain limited due to a legacy of exclusion and marginalization. Smith and Mason (2003) confirmed that gender norms play a greater role in determining women's empowerment in society than personal or family characteristics. In the Palestinian context, this has resulted in weak contributions by women towards achieving a quality life that reflects satisfaction with their lives and communities. The problem of this study lies in the fact that despite the cohesion of Palestinian society, the phenomenon of socially unempowered women remains prevalent. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2022), the level of social empowerment of Palestinian women in the northern West Bank governorates was 76%, declining to 69% after the October war. This decline may adversely affect women's quality of life. Accordingly, the research problem can be summarized by the following main question:

What is the level of feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among employed Palestinian women in Tulkarm Governorate, and how does it relate to their quality of life, considering the lack of prior studies addressing this issue in mid-sized Palestinian communities such as Tulkarm, which face unique socio-economic and institutional challenges?

Significance of the Study:**First: Theoretical Significance:**

- 1- The importance of addressing the study's topic due to its significant themes.
- 2- This study aligns with international community requirements to focus on women's issues, empowerment, service provision, and skills development. It responds to the needs of Palestinian society by linking women's awareness of social empowerment to their quality of life, considering that socially empowered Palestinian women represent a qualitative and quantitative human resource comprising half of society.

Second: Practical Significance

- 1- The study is important for the Palestinian women's sector and their families, as it explores the extent of feminist awareness of social empowerment issues and aims to raise such awareness to improve their quality of life.
- 2- The study is significant for researchers and stakeholders, providing information to policymakers to enhance Palestinian women's ability to participate effectively in social decision-making processes affecting their lives and families, thereby improving their quality of life and enabling them to obtain their rights in various fields.
- 3- It is hoped that the scientific and practical results of this study will contribute to increasing feminist awareness of social empowerment among Palestinian women and its impact on their social quality of life.

Research Objectives:

- 1- To determine the level of feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among employed Palestinian women in Tulkarm Governorate and its relationship to their quality of life.
- 2- To examine differences in the level of feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among employed Palestinian women in Tulkarm Governorate and its relationship to their quality of life based on certain variables (age, marital status).

Research Questions:

- 1- What is the level of feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among employed Palestinian women in Tulkarm Governorate and how does it relate to their quality of life?
- 2- What are the differences in the level of feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among employed Palestinian women in Tulkarm Governorate and in their quality of life based on certain variables (age, marital status)?

Research Hypotheses

- 1- **Null Hypothesis (H₀):** There is no statistically significant relationship at the ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) level between feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among employed Palestinian women in Tulkarm Governorate and their quality of life attributable to age.

- 2- **Alternative Hypothesis (H_1):** There is a statistically significant relationship at the ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) level between feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among employed Palestinian women in Tulkarm Governorate and their quality of life attributable to age.

Study Limitations:

- 1- Temporal Limit: 2024–2025.
- 2- Spatial Limit: Tulkarm Governorate.
- 3- Human Limit: Employed women in Tulkarm Governorate.

Study Definitions:

Women's Social Empowerment:

Focuses on increasing women's participation locally and globally by emphasizing their role in shaping positive values within their families and societies through services that enable them to manage their family and societal responsibilities (Hoque et al., 2019). *Operationally defined by the researcher as:* establishing diverse networks among employable women to coordinate efforts towards raising their awareness to eliminate all forms of discrimination against them and increase their ability to enjoy a high quality of life.

Employed Palestinian Women:

Women participating in the labor market, either owning or managing their businesses, through their mental and physical efforts to achieve benefits for themselves and society.

Feminist Awareness:

Raising individuals' consciousness of gender equality and the need to combat discrimination against women, which is crucial for advocating for better lives for women in society by stimulating change and promoting awareness of women's rights and participation in building a more just future (Sharmistha, 2021). *Operationally defined by the researcher as:* educating women about their rights and freedoms, including educational, health, economic, and political rights, and encouraging them to achieve their full potential and participate effectively in all aspects of life.

Quality of Life:

Depends on balancing an individual's health, psychological, social, and economic aspects, influenced by external factors such as economy, politics, environment, and culture, and relates to freedom, rights, and the ability to

participate in social and political life (Cacoulidis, 2022). *Operationally defined by the researcher as:* the extent to which employed women feel satisfied and content with various aspects of their lives, including family and social relationships and the social support they receive from family, friends, and society.

Theoretical Framework and Previous Studies:

Level of Feminist Awareness:

The level of feminist awareness refers to the extent to which women understand their issues, rights, and challenges within society, as well as their ability to work towards achieving gender equality and influencing social change. The level of feminist awareness varies among women depending on their backgrounds, personal experiences, and cultures (Salem, 2020).

Feminist awareness includes understanding issues affecting women such as gender discrimination, violence against women, and women's rights in areas like education, work, health, and political participation. It also encompasses awareness of women's roles in society and culture and how change and improvement can be achieved. Furthermore, feminist awareness increases participation in feminist movements and social and political activities related to women's issues, and it promotes a deeper understanding of the importance of gender equality, encouraging women to achieve their full potential (Hassan, 2021).

Women's Social Empowerment:

Social empowerment focuses on increasing women's participation in societal issues while emphasizing their crucial role in shaping positive values within the family and society. It also aims to raise awareness to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and provide services that help them balance their responsibilities with their developmental roles.

Indicators of Women's Social Empowerment:

1- Demographic Indicators: These include health and nutrition, education and participation, and employment opportunities. They are reflected in the proportion of women attaining higher education, the percentage of women succeeding in STEM fields, maternal mortality rates during childbirth, and access to basic healthcare and preventive services (Heliel & Bazina, 2021).

- 2- **Access to Knowledge and Information:** This entails opportunities to access knowledge and information sources and the elimination of biases against women in legislation related to employment, ownership, credit, personal status, and legal proceedings (Khan et al., 2021).
- 3- **Media Representation Indicators:** These include the percentage of women working as broadcasters or journalists and the extent of women's representation in media and cultural and artistic programs.
- 4- **Employment Indicators:** These cover the rate of female labor force participation, the proportion of women in leadership and managerial positions, and the gender pay gap for the same job roles (Qaraqe, 2020).
- 5- **Civil Society Organizations:** Indicators include the increase in organizations working with women in areas such as legal empowerment, training, education, and combating gender-based violence, as well as the existence of laws protecting women's rights in marriage, divorce, and child custody, alongside rates of violence against women and measures taken to combat it (Oudah, 2022).
- 6- **Participation in Development Programs:** These indicators reflect women's involvement in managing and organizing development programs and their participation in decision-making within the family, workplace, and local community (Abdullah, 2021).
- 7- **Political Participation Indicators:** These include the percentage of women in government and parliament positions and their involvement in political and governmental decision-making processes (Al-Muajel, 2020).

Quality of Life:

- Quality of life is a multidimensional concept encompassing various aspects of an individual's life. It does not focus on one dimension alone; rather, it includes:
 - **Physical Health:** Being free from diseases and disabilities, engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy diet, and getting adequate sleep and rest.
 - **Psychological Health:** Emotional and mental wellbeing, happiness, satisfaction, positivity, and the ability to cope with stress and psychological pressures.
 - **Social Relationships:** Quality of social support received from family and friends, and the ability to build and maintain positive relationships.

- Self-Control and Independence: The ability to make decisions and act independently and responsibly (Sahsah, 2021).

Importance of Quality of Life for Working Women:

- 1- Plays a significant role in improving women's psychological and emotional wellbeing; when women feel satisfied and happy, they can better handle life's challenges and pressures.
- 2- Is linked to women's general health; easy access to healthcare services and a healthy, safe environment help maintain their health and wellbeing.
- 3- Is influenced by educational and personal development opportunities; education and lifelong learning equip women with tools to achieve goals and develop skills.
- 4- Enhancing quality of life promotes women's economic independence; having independent income and good job opportunities enables financial decision-making and family support.
- 5- Enables women to participate effectively in social and political life, raising awareness of their rights and encouraging contributions to societal development.
- 6- Promotes gender equality by providing equal opportunities in education, employment, decision-making, and progress in various fields (Abdul Razzaq & Al-Quraiti, 2021).

Previous Studies:

Arab Studies:

Kilani (2022) conducted a study titled "*Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators in Rural Egypt: A Field Social Research in a Village in Upper Egypt.*" The study aimed to identify rural women's awareness of empowerment issues, using a descriptive-analytical method with a 30-item questionnaire distributed to 400 female participants. Results showed that feminist awareness among rural women was below expectations, with significant differences in awareness levels across political, social, and economic domains based on marital status (favoring single women over married, divorced, and widowed women) and educational level (favoring university education and above).

Khalifa & Abu Roman (2022) conducted a study titled "*Feminist Awareness and Its Relationship with Political Participation in Jordanian Society.*" The study aimed to identify feminist awareness and its

relationship with political participation using a descriptive-analytical approach and a questionnaire distributed to 543 working Jordanian women. Results revealed a positive relationship between feminist awareness and political participation and no significant differences in awareness levels based on education, qualification, or age.

Khalifa & Al-Attas (2021) conducted a study titled “*Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators in Gulf Societies.*” The study aimed to identify feminist awareness in Gulf societies using a descriptive-analytical method with a questionnaire distributed to 800 employed women. Findings indicated an urgent need to raise feminist awareness and showed no significant differences in awareness levels based on monthly income or marital status.

Ibrahim & Abdel Aal (2020) conducted a study titled “*Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators in Arab Societies.*” This study used a descriptive-analytical approach with a questionnaire distributed to 250 employed women. Results indicated that rural women in Egypt urgently needed increased awareness, with significant differences in awareness based on years of experience (favoring women with ten years or more) and no differences based on educational level or qualification.

International Studies:

Nichols & Baker (2022) conducted a study titled “*Feminist Awareness and Its Relationship with Political Participation in the United States.*” The study aimed to examine the relationship between feminist awareness and political participation and link it to social empowerment indicators among American women. Using a descriptive-analytical method and a political and civic participation questionnaire developed by the authors, the study included 500 American women and found a positive relationship between feminist awareness and political participation, with no significant differences in awareness or empowerment levels based on age or qualification.

White & Jones (2021) conducted a study titled “*Feminist Awareness and Its Relationship with Economic Participation in the United Kingdom.*” This study aimed to investigate feminist awareness and its relationship with economic participation and social empowerment indicators among British

women. Using a descriptive-analytical method and a political and civic participation questionnaire, the study sampled 400 British women across various demographic and economic groups. Results indicated a positive relationship between feminist awareness and economic participation, with significant differences in awareness levels based on marital status (favoring married, divorced, and widowed women) and education level (favoring university education and above).

Commentary on Previous Studies:

Reviewing the previous studies reveals that while numerous studies have examined feminist awareness and its relation to various empowerment indicators, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, no study has addressed the level of feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators among working women in Tulkarm and its relation to their quality of life. These studies varied in their objectives, tackling different aspects of feminist awareness, indicating the broad scholarly interest in this concept and women's social empowerment.

Research Methodology and Procedures:

Study Design:

The study used a descriptive-analytical quantitative approach due to its suitability for the study's objectives.

Study Population:

The study population consisted of all employed women in Tulkarm Governorate, totaling 7,695 women according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2022).

Study Sample:

The sample consisted of 500 employed women in Tulkarm Governorate, selected using purposive non-probability sampling. Table (1) presents the sample description by independent variables.

Table (1):

Description of the Study Sample According to Its Independent Variables

Independent Variables	Variable Levels	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	Less than 30 years	36	7.2
	30–40 years	248	49.6
	41–50 years	189	37.8
	More than 50 years	27	5.4
	Total	500	100%
Marital Status	Single	162	32.4
	Married	237	47.4
	Divorced	72	14.4
	Widowed	29	5.8
	Total	500	100%

Study Instrument:

After reviewing several previous studies and their tools, the researcher developed a questionnaire consisting of two parts. The first part included demographic information about the respondents, while the second part consisted of items measuring the level of feminist awareness regarding indicators of social empowerment among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate and its relationship to their quality of life. The total number of items was (30), distributed across three main domains, as shown in Table (2):

Table (2):

Distribution of the Study Instrument Items Across Its Main Domains

Domain	Item Numbers	Number of Items
Feminist Awareness	1–10	10
Social Empowerment Indicators	11–20	10
Women’s Quality of Life	21–30	10
Total		30

The questionnaire was designed based on a five-point Likert scale, with all items constructed in a positive direction. The weights assigned were: (Strongly Agree: 5, Agree: 4, Neutral: 3, Disagree: 2, Strongly Disagree: 1). Thus, the maximum possible score was (5×30=150), and the minimum possible score was (1×30=30).

Instrument Validity:

Face Validity:

The researcher presented the tool to a panel of (7) experts in the field of humanities from Palestinian universities to assess the content validity of the items, their relevance to the study objectives, domains, and variables. The judges indicated that the items were highly appropriate.

Internal Consistency Validity:

Pearson correlation coefficients were used. Table (3) presents the values of internal consistency validity for the items within each dimension and the total score:

Table (3):

Internal Consistency Validity Coefficients for the Study Dimensions and Overall Scores

Item	Correlation with Dimension	Significance Level	Item	Correlation with Dimension	Significance Level	Item	Correlation with Dimension	Significance Level
1	.655**	.00*	11	.685**	.00*	21	.619**	.00*
2	.611**	.00*	12	.702**	.00*	22	.730**	.00*
3	.671**	.00*	13	.569**	.00*	23	.627**	.00*
4	.723**	.00*	14	.522**	.00*	24	.517**	.00*
5	.644**	.00*	15	.741**	.00*	25	.685**	.00*
6	.736**	.00*	16	.856**	.00*	26	.719**	.00*
7	.698**	.00*	17	.624**	.00*	27	.602**	.00*
8	.627**	.00*	18	.617**	.00*	28	.639**	.00*
9	.734**	.00*	19	.750**	.00*	29	.700**	.00*
10	.628**	.00*	20	.673**	.00*	30	.802**	.00*

Correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level. Significant at the 0.05 level.

The results presented in Table (3) indicate that the correlation coefficients for each item within the dimensions of the study were high and appropriate for assessing the level of feminist awareness regarding indicators of social empowerment among working Palestinian women in the Tulkarm Governorate and its relation to their quality of life. The results showed that the correlation values between the items and the overall score for each dimension ranged from (.517-.856), with statistical significance levels of (0.01) and (0.05). This confirms the suitability of the items in accurately measuring the intended constructs.

Based on the internal consistency results of the study dimensions, none of the items were excluded. All items across the dimensions demonstrated acceptable factorial validity at the 0.05 significance level, with a number of

items exhibiting stronger validity at the 0.01 level. Given that item correlation coefficients should not fall below the criterion of (.20), this reflects the construct validity of the items and their effectiveness in capturing the variables they were designed to assess.

Instrument Reliability:

Internal Consistency Reliability: Cronbach's Alpha was used to assess reliability.

*Table (4):
shows the results:*

Domain	Number of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
Feminist Awareness	10	0.887
Social Empowerment Indicators	10	0.739
Women's Quality of Life	10	0.814
Total	30	0.813

The Cronbach's Alpha values ranged from (0.739–0.887), indicating high reliability, as values greater than (0.60) are considered acceptable for practical application.

Second: Normality Test (Kolmogorov–Smirnov 1-Sample K-S Test)

To examine whether the data follow a normal distribution, Table (5) presents the results of the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. These results assist in determining the appropriate statistical analysis procedures (parametric vs. non-parametric tests).

*Table (5):
Normality Test (1-Sample K-S)*

Domain	Test Statistic (Z)	Significance Level
Feminist Awareness	.6870	.810
Indicators of Social Empowerment	.6240	.900
Women's Quality of Life	.5940	.830
Overall Score	.6350	.840

It is evident from the results in Table (5) that the significance level in all study domains exceeds 0.05, indicating that the data follow a normal distribution. Accordingly, parametric tests should be used.

Study Procedures:

- Secondary Data Collection: Obtaining theoretical and practical literature from books, articles, reports, and theses.
- Primary Data Collection: Designing, validating, and distributing the questionnaire to the sample.
- Data Entry: Entering data into SPSS for analysis.
- Data Processing: Performing descriptive and inferential analyses to answer research questions and test hypotheses.
- Discussion of Results: Interpreting findings concerning feminist awareness, social empowerment indicators, and quality of life.

Study Design:

- Independent Variables: Age (Less than 30, 30–40, 41–50, over 50); Marital Status (Single, Married, Divorced, Widowed).
- Dependent Variable: All domains measuring feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators and its relationship to women's quality of life.

Statistical Analyses Used:

- 1- Means, standard deviations, and percentages.
- 2- One-way ANOVA for age and marital status.
- 3- Cronbach's Alpha for reliability.
- 4- LSD post hoc tests.

Study Results and Discussion:**Findings Related to the Main Research Question:**

What is the level of feminist awareness regarding indicators of social empowerment among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate, and how is it related to their quality of life?

To analyze this question, the study employed means, standard deviations, percentages, and scores, as presented in Tables 6, 7, and 8. Table 9 illustrates the ranking of domains according to the level of feminist awareness regarding social empowerment indicators among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate, and its relationship to their quality of life.

For the purpose of interpreting the means and determining the relationship between variables within the study sample, the score was converted based on a scale ranging from 1 to 5 points. The scale was

divided into five intervals to distinguish between high and low levels. The range ($5-1 = 4$) was divided by the five intervals ($4 \div 5 = 0.8$), resulting in an interval length of 0.8. Accordingly, the following criteria were adopted to categorize the scores:

Mean Score	Percentage Equivalent	Interpretation
4.2 and above	84.2% and above	Very high
3.4 – 4.19	68.2% – 84.0%	High
2.6 – 3.39	52.2% – 68.0%	Moderate
1.8 – 2.59	36.2% – 52.0%	Low
Less than 1.8	36.2% and below	Very low

First: The Domain of Feminist Awareness

Table (6):

Means, Standard Deviations, and Percentages of Feminist Awareness Regarding Indicators of Social Empowerment Among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate, and Its Relationship to Their Quality of Life — Arranged in Descending Order by Score

No.	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Percentage	Degree
1	Working women believe they are qualified to freely choose their life partner without external interference.	4.2333	0.8144	84.67%	Very High
2	Women are highly aware of reconciling social needs with their roles at home.	3.9533	0.8220	79.07%	High
3	Women possess adequate awareness of gaining high social status through their professional position.	3.9333	0.8721	78.67%	High
4	Women have sufficient awareness to defend their status and rights.	3.9000	0.8089	78.00%	High
5	Women are aware of their strong participation in family decision-making.	3.8400	0.8830	76.80%	High
6	Women have sufficient awareness of their right to pursue continued education.	3.7800	0.9403	75.60%	High

No.	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Percentage	Degree
7	Women are adequately aware of their right to move and reside in places that suit their circumstances.	3.6533	0.8898	73.07%	High
8	Women are highly aware that their familial and societal roles are no less important than those of men.	3.6223	0.8765	73.00%	High
9	Women have sufficient awareness of the importance of participating in meaningful social events.	3.6012	0.8678	72.85%	High
10	Women are fully aware of their influential social role within the work environment.	3.5985	0.8578	72.61%	High
Total Score		3.8115	0.8633	76.43%	High

Maximum score per item: 5; Maximum total score for the domain: 50.

The data in Table (6) indicate that the overall level of feminist awareness among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate is high, as evidenced by the mean percentage response across all items in this domain (76.43%).

Second: Social Empowerment Indicators.

Table (7):

Means, Standard Deviations, and Percentages Reflecting Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators Among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate, and Its Relationship to Their Quality of Life — Arranged in Descending Order by Score

No.	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Percentage	Degree
11	Women perceive their societal status positively due to their active role in social change.	4.1733	0.6212	83.47%	High
12	Palestinian institutions enforce legal frameworks that enhance women's empowerment.	4.1200	0.5784	82.40%	High
13	Moderate religious discourse helps guide women toward greater social empowerment.	4.0800	0.5375	81.60%	High

No.	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Percentage	Degree
14	Effective social media platforms facilitate women's communication with peers to advance professionally.	4.0667	0.7479	81.33%	High
15	Local media outlets promote women's aspirations to secure positions that reflect higher empowerment levels.	4.0267	0.7137	80.53%	High
16	Supportive feminist organizations contribute to increased levels of women's social empowerment.	4.0133	0.6754	80.27%	High
17	Women motivate peers by emphasizing the importance of their social and professional status as a source of strength.	3.9533	0.6275	79.07%	High
18	Men support the professional development of working women through active encouragement of their skill-building.	3.9452	0.6178	79.02%	High
19	Feminist institutions strengthen women's social relationships with their surrounding environment.	3.9354	0.6166	78.77%	High
20	Feminist organizations provide emotional support that boosts working women's confidence in their abilities.	3.8778	0.6088	78.52%	High
	Total Score	4.0191	0.6345	80.49%	High

Maximum score per item: 5; Maximum total score for the domain: 50.

It is evident from Table (7) that the overall score for the domain of social empowerment indicators was high, as reflected by the average percentage of participants' responses across all items in this domain, which reached 80.49%.

Third: Women's Quality of Life.

Table (8):

Means, Standard Deviations, and Percentages Reflecting Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators Among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate, and Its Relationship to Their Quality of Life — According to the Domain of Women's Quality of Life, Ranked in Descending Order by Score

No.	Item	Mean	Standard Deviation	Percentage	Degree
21	Women express high satisfaction with the level of healthcare services received when in need.	4.3133	0.5451	86.27%	Very High
22	Women feel a strong sense of social security at work and at home.	4.2369	0.5237	85.64%	Very High
23	Women have sufficient energy to carry out their responsibilities and complete their tasks on time.	4.2163	0.5125	84.10%	High
24	Women participate in recreational activities organized by social institutions.	4.2010	0.5019	83.67%	High
25	Women are highly satisfied with the performance of their work-related tasks.	4.1986	0.4987	82.74%	High
26	Women express great satisfaction with the quality of their personal relationships within their communities.	4.1657	0.4873	81.96%	High
27	Women feel joyful through their engagement in various social activities.	4.1543	0.4823	81.41%	High
28	Women experience a high level of satisfaction regarding their mental health.	4.1496	0.4736	80.87%	High
29	Women report having adequate financial resources to meet their personal needs.	4.1354	0.4717	80.17%	High
30	Women perceive their lives as meaningful, aligned with their social roles.	4.1120	0.4325	79.65%	High
	Total Score	4.1883	0.4929	82.64%	High

Maximum score per item: 5; Maximum total score for the domain: 50.

It is evident from Table (8) that the overall score for the domain of women's quality of life was high, as reflected by the average percentage of respondents' answers across all items in this domain, which reached 82.64%.

Fourth: Ranking of Domains by Level of Feminist Awareness Regarding Social Empowerment Indicators Among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate and Its Relationship to Their Quality of Life.

Table (9):

Domain Ranking According to the Level of Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators and Their Relationship to Women's Quality of Life

No.	Domain	Mean	Standard Deviation	Percentage	Degree
1	Women's Quality of Life	4.1883	0.4929	82.64%	High
2	Social Empowerment Indicators	4.0191	0.6345	80.49%	High
3	Feminist Awareness	3.8115	0.8633	76.43%	High
	Total Score Across Domains	4.0063	0.6636	79.85%	High

The results presented in Table (9) demonstrate that the level of feminist awareness regarding social empowerment indicators among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate and its relationship to their quality of life was generally high, with an overall score across all domains reaching 79.85%.

The ranking of domains is as follows: First Rank: Women's Quality of Life Second Rank: Indicators of Social Empowerment Third Rank: Feminist Awareness.

The researcher attributes these findings to the distinct context of Palestinian society, in which women do not only contend with the challenges commonly faced in other communities, but also encounter additional hardships imposed by ongoing social, economic, and political instability stemming from occupation-related conditions. These compounded challenges have intensified the urgency and relevance of empowerment, which is further bolstered by the presence of feminist organizations actively supporting women across various sectors — social, economic, and political. These institutions have played a pivotal role in

enhancing women's awareness of their rights and reinforcing their advocacy for active participation across all fields. As women secure greater opportunities for involvement and recognition, their self-confidence increases accordingly, which in turn contributes to a heightened quality of life.

These findings are consistent with those of Smith & Mason (2023) and Khalifa & Abu Mazen (2022), while contrasting with the conclusions reached by Kilani (2022) and Ibrahim & Abdel Aal (2020).

Discussion of the First Hypothesis

There are no statistically significant differences at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of feminist awareness regarding social empowerment indicators among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate, and its relationship to their quality of life, attributed to the age variable.

To test this hypothesis, mean scores were calculated according to age categories. A one-way ANOVA was then conducted to examine the statistical significance of these differences. Tables (10) and (11) present the results of this analysis.

Table (10):

Mean Scores of Feminist Awareness Regarding Social Empowerment Indicators and Their Relationship to Women's Quality of Life, Attributed to Age

Domain	Under 30 years (n = 36)	31–40 years (n = 248)	41–50 years (n = 189)	Above 50 years (n = 27)
Feminist Awareness	4.4847	4.4874	4.4769	4.5547
Social Empowerment Indicators	3.9878	4.1362	4.3620	4.2685
Women's Quality of Life	4.1895	4.0369	4.1781	4.2367

As shown in Table (10), there are observable differences in the mean scores across age groups. To determine whether these differences reach statistical significance, a one-way ANOVA was applied. Table (11) presents the outcomes of this analysis.

Table (11):

One-Way ANOVA Results for Differences in Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators Among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate and Their Relationship to Quality of Life, Attributed to Age

Domain	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-Value	Significance Level
Feminist Awareness	Between Groups	0.845	4	0.342	2.667	0.03 *
	Within Groups	21.635	495	0.268		
	Total	22.598	499			
Social Empowerment Indicators	Between Groups	0.163	4	0.058	1.148	0.21
	Within Groups	9.410	495	0.067		
	Total	9.497	499			
Women's Quality of Life	Between Groups	0.145	4	0.063	1.163	0.34
	Within Groups	9.326	495	0.087		
	Total	9.421	499			

Statistical significance: * $p \leq 0.05$; ** $p \leq 0.01$

The findings in Table (11) indicate that the calculated significance levels for the domains of Social Empowerment Indicators ($p = 0.21$) and Women's Quality of Life ($p = 0.34$), attributed to the age variable, are both higher than the study's predetermined level of significance ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted for these two domains, indicating that age does not significantly affect either women's awareness of empowerment indicators or their perceived quality of life.

However, the calculated significance level for the domain of **Feminist Awareness** was ($p = 0.03$), which is less than the specified threshold of statistical significance ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected for this domain, confirming the presence of statistically significant differences in feminist awareness among women of different age groups.

To identify which age groups these differences favor, a post hoc **Least Significant Difference (LSD)** test was conducted. The results are presented in Table (12).

Table (12):

LSD Post Hoc Test Results for Mean Differences in Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators Among Palestinian Working Women in Tulkarm Governorate, Attributed to Age — Feminist Awareness Domain

Group A: Age	Group B: Age	Mean Difference (A-B)	Standard Error	Significance (Sig.)
Under 30	31-40	0.13330	0.10268	0.08
	41-50	0.13787	0.11269	0.10
	Above 50	-0.14811	0.07541	0.03
31-40	Under 30	-0.13655	0.12382	0.31
	41-50	0.14878	0.13696	0.11
	Above 50	-0.24155	0.06986	0.03
41-50	Under 30	0.11254	0.11474	0.11
	31-40	0.14323	0.10241	0.08
	Above 50	0.14777	0.07326	0.02
Above 50	Under 30	0.13525	0.07325	0.03
	31-40	0.12231	0.04258	0.01
	41-50	0.23661	0.07689	0.03

Statistical significance: * $p \leq 0.05$

The results shown in Table (12) reveal statistically significant differences in the level of feminist awareness regarding social empowerment indicators among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate, attributed to the age variable within the domain of feminist awareness. These differences were observed between the age groups *under 30*, *31-40*, and *41-50*, compared with those *above 50*, and were statistically significant in favor of women aged above 50.

The researcher interprets this outcome by emphasizing that feminist awareness is a cumulative and evolving process influenced by several factors. Chief among these are the repetition of personal experiences and life events as women age, which contribute to a deeper understanding of the barriers to social empowerment. Additionally, the demands of public life often encourage continued learning and educational engagement, even at later stages, enabling older women to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for awareness and advocacy. Moreover, the increasing exposure of women to global discourses centered on gender equality further reinforces their recognition of rights, which positively reflects on their overall quality of life.

This finding contrasts with the conclusions of *Nichols & Baker (2022)* and *Khalifa & Abu Rumman (2022)*. Such divergence may be attributed to variations in societal context, study sample characteristics, geographic location, and the sociopolitical circumstances surrounding each study.

Discussion of the Second Hypothesis

There are no statistically significant differences at the significance level ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) in the level of feminist awareness regarding social empowerment indicators among Palestinian working women in Tulkarm Governorate, and its relationship to their quality of life, attributed to marital status.

To examine this hypothesis, mean scores were calculated based on the marital status variable. A one-way ANOVA was then conducted to assess the significance of differences across groups. Tables (13) and (14) present the findings of this analysis.

Table (13):

Mean Scores of Feminist Awareness of Social Empowerment Indicators and Their Relationship to Quality of Life, Attributed to Marital Status

Domain	Single (n = 162)	Married (n = 237)	Divorced (n = 72)	Widowed (n = 29)
Feminist Awareness	4.4301	4.4913	4.5029	3.9854
Social Empowerment Indicators	4.3652	4.2574	4.1632	4.2360
Women's Quality of Life	3.8243	3.9807	3.9261	4.2250

It is clear from Table (13) that there are differences between the arithmetic means, and in order to know whether these differences have reached the level of statistical significance, the One-Way ANOVA test was used, and Table (14) shows this:

Table (14):

One-Way ANOVA Results for Statistical Significance of Differences in Feminist Awareness Regarding Social Empowerment Indicators — Attributed to Marital Status

Domain	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-Value	Sig. Level
Feminist Awareness	Between Groups	0.079	4	0.093	0.067	0.32
	Within Groups	9.237	495	0.013		
	Total	9.116	499			
Social Empowerment Indicators	Between Groups	0.096	4	0.032	0.664	0.41

Domain	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F-Value	Sig. Level
	Within Groups	9.429	495	0.048		
	Total	9.525	499			
Women's Quality of Life	Between Groups	0.014	4	0.063	0.152	0.37
	Within Groups	9.632	495	0.052		
	Total	9.856	499			

Statistical significance: * $p \leq 0.05$; ** $p \leq 0.01$

The results shown in Table (14) indicate that the calculated significance values for all domains — *Feminist Awareness*, *Social Empowerment Indicators*, and *Women's Quality of Life* — exceeded the predetermined significance threshold of the study ($\alpha \leq 0.05$). Accordingly, the null hypothesis is accepted across all domains, confirming **that** marital status does not significantly affect the level of feminist awareness, awareness of empowerment indicators, or perceived quality of life among Palestinian working women in the study sample.

The researcher attributes this outcome to the unique characteristics of Palestinian society and the prevailing legal frameworks that safeguard women's rights. Furthermore, the environment in which these women live — rich in feminist institutions that actively support and empower them socially, economically, and politically regardless of marital status — plays a pivotal role. In addition, the process of socialization has contributed to shaping strong and resilient female identities, enhancing their roles in both public and private spheres. The researcher asserts that women who are active within their communities are, by extension, also active within their families — a dynamic that contributes to their overall quality of life.

These findings are consistent with the results reported by *Khalifa & Al-Attas (2021)* and *White & Jones (2021)*, while they contrast with those of *Kilani (2022)*. Such divergence may be attributed to differences in societal context, sample composition, study location, and the surrounding sociopolitical conditions.

Conclusion:

The study yielded multiple findings concerning the level of feminist awareness regarding social empowerment indicators among Palestinian

working women in the Tulkarm Governorate and its relationship to their quality of life. Based on the data collected through the research instrument, the overall score was high, with the average percentage of participants' responses across all items reaching **79.85%**. The results further revealed statistically significant differences attributed to the variable of age, favoring women over 50 years old. However, no significant differences were found with respect to marital status. Based on these findings, the study presents several key recommendations: Developing empowerment programs for Palestinian working women through coordinated efforts between governmental institutions and civil society organizations, aimed at enhancing feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators — which would positively impact both women's quality of life and the well-being of their families. Strengthening the institutional capacity of Palestinian feminist organizations to serve as nurturing hubs for women, enhancing their awareness of empowerment indicators through sustained training and professional development opportunities.

Recommendations:

- 1- Developing empowerment programs for Palestinian working women through collaborative efforts between governmental institutions and civil society organizations, aimed at enhancing feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators. Such programs are expected to positively impact both women's personal well-being and family life.
- 2- Designing targeted training initiatives for Palestinian working women, facilitated by academic and family-oriented social institutions, to strengthen their feminist awareness of social empowerment indicators. These programs should equip women with the confidence and skills needed to navigate personal and professional challenges, and to engage actively in social work that elevates their societal role.
- 3- Building institutional capacity within Palestinian feminist **organizations** to serve as inclusive platforms that nurture women's empowerment. These institutions should focus on raising feminist awareness through structured opportunities for professional training and development, thereby contributing to improved quality of life for women in various social spheres.

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