



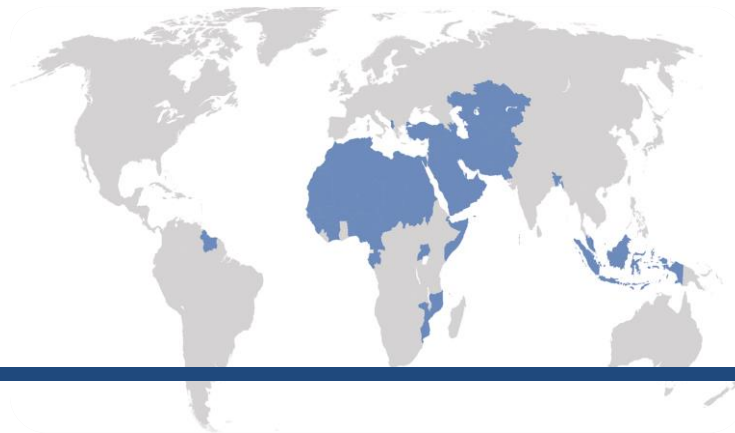
SAFEGUARDING FAMILY VALUES AND THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE IN OIC COUNTRIES

How are Families and Marriage Changing in the New Millennium?



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

STATISTICAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES



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Acronyms

ECDI	Early Childhood Development Index
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
HDI	Human Development Index
IDP	Internally Displaced People
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WVS	World Value Surveys
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
AFR	Adolescent Fertility Rate
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
GEN-Y	Generation Y
FCM\C	Female Genital Mutilation\Cutting
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
STI	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TFR	Total Fertility rate
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Foreword

With the rise of modern society, industrial economy and the welfare state, political theorists falsely presumed that family was incrementally going to lose its many functions and hence importance in society. This presumption was followed by a strand of thought that viewed family and marital life as archaic institutions that hinder and limit modern individual's liberties, wellbeing, and development, creating, as such, a make-believe clash between family and the self. Advocates of family were blamed for having a moralistic, prescriptive and normative agenda.

The turn of the new Millennium, however, proved otherwise. Family did not lose its functions; on the very contrary, its functions and responsibilities have expanded and further multiplied. Second but not least, it has become clear after decades of decline in family values and marital union, particularly in Western communities, that weakened families bared severe costs to society; as severe as falling below population replacement level putting societies' survival under threat or a decay in children's early development, and health and academic outcomes —risking, overall, sustainable social and economic development. Today family emerges again as a core institution of society.

The report first identifies what verbatim functions family undertake in OIC communities and as such demonstrates what costs societies would have to bear when family and marital union and values that keep these unions intact are weakened. In doing so, it takes a comprehensive approach, looking at various dimensions from family's role in public health, political stability, moral order and economic development to children's cognitive outcomes and country's human capital development index.

After tracing these substantial functions of family and marital union using various data sources, the report identifies what challenges families and married couples are being faced in contemporary OIC societies that have undermined, and will continue to, family and marital values. The report again takes a comprehensive approach bringing to discussion not only demographic and economic challenges but also cultural challenges, while also reviewing current OIC member country policies on family, children, and motherhood, and marriage. Throughout the report, discussions involve not only an assessment of current situation but also future projections to more precisely identify where most intervention might be needed.

In the light of these discussions, the report draws policy implications and addresses not only possible social security and economic measures, but also socio-cultural policies. In particular, the report, based on its extensive research, highlights the need for policies that focus on the new generation and their values and orientations, who will be future parents and spouses.

The future resilience and strength of family and marital values will depend in large part on how the new generation manages challenges surrounding them; but their performance and ability will largely depend on how well policymakers today can address ongoing and upcoming challenges. This report, as such, is a quite timely and appropriate effort, hoping to contribute efforts in member states to preserve family and marital values and union.

Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya
Director General
S E S R I C

1. Introduction

Family is always defined as the building block of human civilization. All major religions deem family as the basis of human relations. For Islam in particular family is a divinely inspired and ordained institution, with marital union between a man and woman at its core. Yet, since the Post World War II era, most communities across the world, including Western societies and those of the OIC member countries, have viewed family as something that is always there, always ready to perform its functions, taking, therefore, the existence as well as strength of family for granted. Even more problematic, classical economic theories and classical approaches in political theory, for decades, falsely has projected that the coming of modern economy and the state would make family and marriage more and more obsolete and trivial by shifting economic production away from family and by expanding welfare functions of the nation-state. Objections to such arguments advocating family were blamed and put off to a side for having a moralistic and normative agenda.

Developments since the turn of the 20th century have proved otherwise, however. For one, globalization and associated processes such as industrialization, urbanization, and technological growth have not only impacted structure, formation patterns, and values of family and marriage, but they have also started to challenge the taken for granted strength and performance of family. Western societies have been hit particularly hard by such challenges, culminating into what some academics have called a ‘family crises’ (Baskerville 2009), characterized by a rise in non-traditional familial pattern as single-parents households and childless marriages —bringing with them a wide range of detrimental results regarding children’s future outcomes or economic growth.

Second, as macro societal and economic changes continued to impact family and marital life, policymakers and academics have realized that it was not only family and marital union that was being affected by societal changes. Rather, weakening of family in turn produced long-breathed and complex problems and those went well beyond moral concerns. For instance, reduction of marriage rate has affected countries’ ability to reproduce and to maintain economic growth. Decline in family’s strength also affected voting turn out and feelings of civic duty. Similarly, it negatively impacted psychical and mental health of individuals and the public as well as children’s development scores.

OIC countries have not been untouched by macro global societal and economic changes even if results have not been as dramatic. However, institutions of family and marriage are still going through substantial transformation in the group of OIC countries. Against this backdrop, this report aims precisely to shed light on these changes and their impact on family and marriage institutions in OIC countries. The report examines the current status of family and marital life and values in OIC country group by looking at various relevant indicators and examining current and upcoming trends that impact family and marriage. In the light of this, the report provides some policy implications that can be used as a reference point for efforts to preserve family values and the institution of marriage in these countries.

In this context, the report classifies the functions of family in contemporary society into four main groups: reproductive and public health functions, psychological functions, socio-cultural and political functions, and economic functions, both micro and macro.

The report then looks at current state of family and marriage and identifies three main categories of emerging trends that undermine, or, if well-managed, facilitate the key functions and related performance of family and marriage institution in OIC countries: demographic trends, economic trends, and social-cultural trends.

In terms of demographic trends, the section traces main demographic patterns and indicators that relate to family and marital formation; namely, it looks at current and future trends of fertility rate, marriage and divorce rates, age at first marriage, population ageing, youth bulge, and household size. In regards to economic changes, the report examines the impact of urbanization, housing, education and women's labor participation on family values and marriage. The analysis of the interaction between economic factors and family and marital life also involves an examination of such thorniest issues as hunger and poverty facing various OIC member states. Finally, this sub-section also looks at effects of migration for better economic opportunities and forced migration on family values and formation given the rising number of migrant individuals and communities in OIC country group.

Socio-cultural trends that face family and marital life are wide-ranging. The report, nevertheless, focuses primarily on globalization and communication technologies. It pays a particular attention value transformation of Generation Y, given that the Generation Y constitutes the main marriage-eligible population who will be future parents and spouses therefore shaping the future of family life and spousal relations in the OIC. Last but not least, the report also provides a brief review of persistence harmful traditional practice discussing how such deeply rooted traditional practices, such as child marriage, high-cost dowry, female genital cutting and early pregnancy, undermine the strength and resilience of and marital union in OIC member countries.

All of these trends and changes occur in a particular policy environment, and whether this environment support and help family and marital union or not determines how well families can respond to surrounding challenges. In this backdrop, the final section looks at current government policies on family and marriage. This includes the following indicators: governmental spending on family, policies regarding violence against women, policies on family planning and family-work balance. The latter studies key indicators including but not limited to tax credits, maternal leave, and baby bonus. To conclude, the report draws policy implications from these discussions addressing where intervention is needed most.

2. Role of Family and Marriage in Social Stability and Sustainable Development

Why do family and marriage matter today more than ever?

It is widely acknowledged that institution of family and marital union are fundamental to the survival and wellbeing of societies. Nonetheless, why family (and marital life) has such a fundamental importance is barely thoroughly discussed. The lack of such discussion prevents policymakers from identifying emerging challenges against and prospects for wellbeing of marital and familial life in OIC context, interacting, more broadly, with rapid global developments.

This section examines in what concrete terms family and marriage matter to society. For that, it investigates what exact functions family and marital union carries out in contemporary society. By doing so, this section sets the grounds for the succeeding sections with a view to identifying the emerging trends that impact, either positively or negatively, family's performance in the OIC countries, thereby also shedding a light on where policy intervention is most needed.

The core functions of family and marriage are sorted into four categories: reproductive, psychological, socio-cultural and political, and economic functions.

Put in a nutshell, reproductive functions of family and institution of marriage include population generation as well as moral regulation of generative behaviour, which, in turn, ensure the survival of societies as well as well-being of individual and public health. Psychological functions of family include ensuring the emotional support and personality development. Most importantly, the family environment works as the main predictor of early childhood development. Socio-culturally, families undertake a public role: they prepare the newcomers to participation in the public sphere and make social order possible. In particular, families facilitate civic duty and good citizenship behaviour, such as voting turn out, and work as a shield to protect the youth from being allured into extremist political rhetoric and propaganda. Finally, in the arena of economics, family undertakes both macro and micro economic functions. At the macro-economic level, families are the key predictors of the coming generation's quality of human development, which according to new economic theories is core to economic growth in the societies.

Families play a large role in microeconomics as well both as producers and consumers. They constitute a substantial segment of consumer spending; in fact, sustainability and growth of certain sectors heavily depend on families and marital union. Moreover, family firms generate a big chunk of the GDP, and facilitate an economic culture marked by egalitarian behaviour, entrepreneurship, social responsibility and charity.

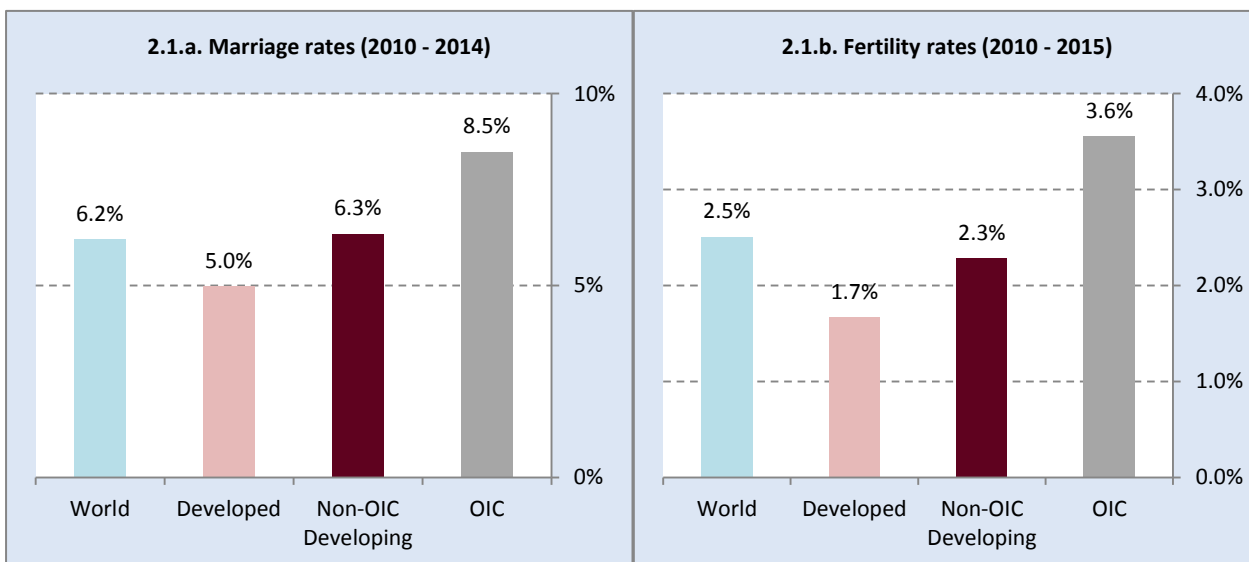
2.1 Reproductive Functions of Family and the Institution of Marriage:

2.1.1 Sustainable Population Growth

Marriage rate is correlated with population generation; therefore, preserving marital union is a requisite for the survival of societies

Universally, one of the core functions of marriage and family formation has been procreation. Without reproduction, any society is sentenced to disappearance. The reproductive function of marriage therefore is essential for the survival of society. Yet, modernist approaches reduce reproductive function of marriage to moral concerns. Nevertheless, the data from across the world infers that marital union besides being a moral concern may in practical terms be the most efficient arrangement for population generation

Figure 2.1: Marriage and Fertility Rates by Country Groups



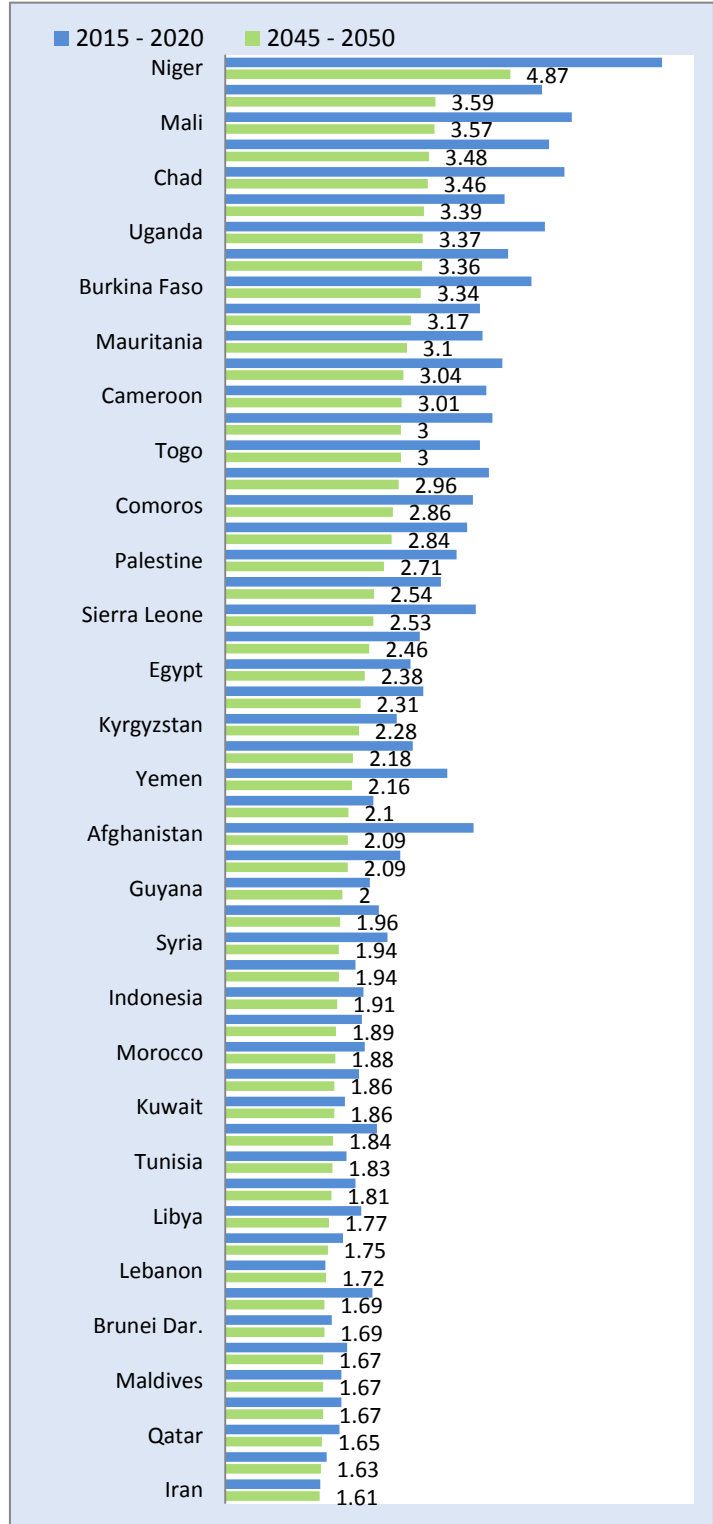
Source: UN Population Division Dataset

It is also true from an Islamic perspective that marriage is the only morally acceptable arrangement for reproduction.

Figure 2.1 illustrates that country categories marked by low marriage rates¹ (Figure 2.1.a) are also marked by low fertility rates (Figure 1.2.b); in other words, marriage rate is positively correlated with population growth. Unsurprisingly, countries with a population growth rate below replacement level (fertility rate < 2.1 per woman) have experienced a severe decline in their marriage rate. For instance, the group of developed countries which recorded the world’s lowest marriage rates also recorded a fertility rate below population replacement level (1.7%). It has been observed that many Western European countries in this group recorded a rapid increase in non-marital and non-traditional cohabitation arrangements (Baskerville, 2009)

As shown in Figure 2.1a, the group of OIC countries has the highest average marital rate compared to those of other country groups and the world. However, as Section 3 shows, intertwined economic, demographic, and cultural changes have already started to impact marriage rates and family formation patterns, shifting OIC member countries towards reduced fertility rates. Indeed, various OIC member countries will risk being below population replacement level in the coming decades. In this context, Figures 2.2 shows that a significant number of OIC member countries will be under population replacement level based on the TFR (total fertility rate) through the interval of 2020-2050.

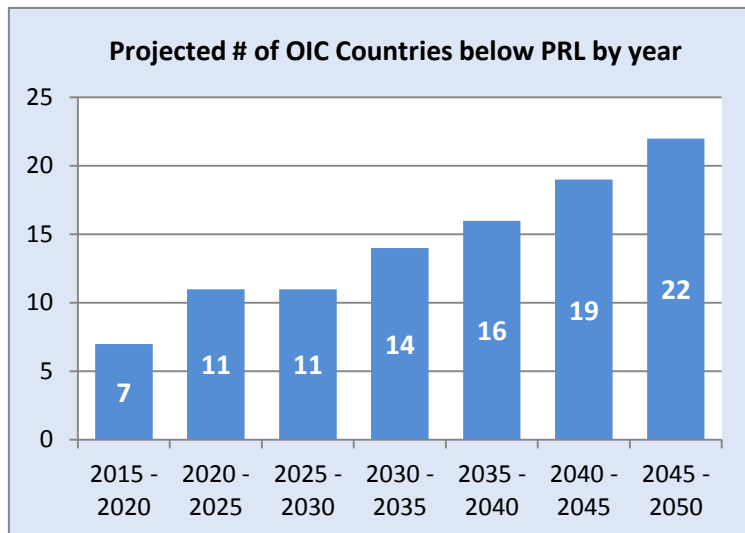
Figure 2.2: OIC Countries’ Projections for Population Replacement Rate



Source: UN Population Division Dataset

¹ Marriage rate is the annual number of marriages per 1000 population (UN, 2001, para. 56).

Figure 2.3: Marriage and Fertility Rates by Country Groups



Source: UN Population Division Dataset

Figure 2.3, on the other hand, traces the rise in the number of OIC countries that will hit below population replacement level through 2015-2050.

Such severe fertility reduction puts countries at high risk of a shrinking work force and an increased age-dependency ratio followed by stagnation in economic growth.

2.1.2 Moral Codes and Public Health

By regulating reproductive behavior, marital and familial union reduces risky generative behavior and assures public health.

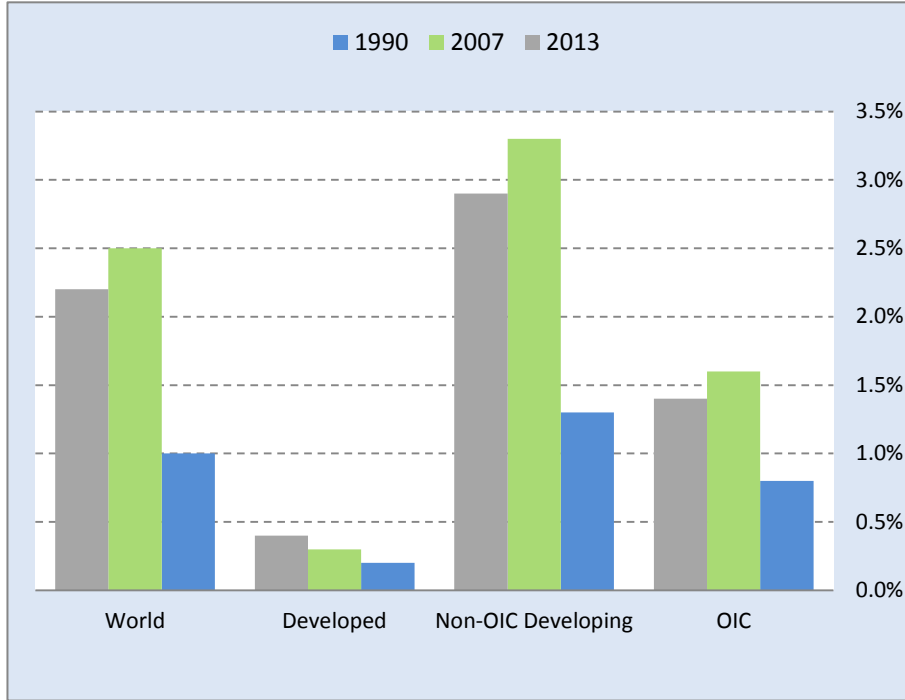
Marriage sets the moral rules for regulation of generative behavior of adults, the youth, and children. Yet, more than upholding moral norms, marital union impacts individual and public health. Through fidelity, social control, and emotional attachment, a healthy marital life facilitates healthy generative behavior and helps preventing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

A substantial amount of country surveys and academic studies in common stress the positive regulative effect of marriage on STI prevalence. A study in Nigeria, on the other hand, has pointed to differing levels of STI prevalence in north (dominantly Muslim) and south Nigeria, the latter having a higher level. The difference was in large part accounted by differing marital patterns (Adebowale A et al. 2013). More specifically, the study attributed the higher STI level in the South in part to higher number of sexual partners among unmarried female youth, and found furthermore that female youth who are never married were at higher risk of STIs compared to their married counterparts (Ibid). In Zimbabwe, on the other hand, observed declines in the prevalence of HIV were found to be related in large part to population level reductions in generative partnership numbers. (Eaton et al. 2014). In the United States, on the other hand, the Center for Disease reports that 19 million new cases of STIs occur each year, and they occur mostly among those who are 15-24 who are not married. The direct medical cost of this young segment marked by risky sexual behavior is around 6.5 billion US (Reported in Chandra et al. 2011).

These studies show that marriage and family are core social institutions that regulate generative behavior, reduce risky behavior, and in turn affect individual and public health.

In the group of OIC countries risky generative behavior seems to be lower than other in other country groups and the world average. For example, as shown in Figure 2.4, OIC countries scored much lower HIV prevalence rates compared to non-OIC developing countries and the world average.

Figure 2.4: Prevalence of HIV (percent of Population Aged 15-49)



Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on World Bank, Health, Nutrition, and Population Statistics

rates compared to non-OIC developing countries and the world average.

OIC countries, however, are not immune to rapidly changing economic conditions that already have started to undermine regulative roles of family and marriage, in turn affecting reproductive public health and behavior. There is indeed evidence that risky generative behavior in some OIC member countries has been on the rise as reflected in increasing HIV and STI incidences in the younger age groups (Table 2.1)

Table 2.1: Risky Generative Behaviour in OIC Countries

Iran	STD cases has quadrupled between 1992 to 2004
Kuwait	STI incidence has been increasing since the 1990s. An increase in precancerous cervical lesions in women and lesions at a younger age.
Saudi Arabia	Increasing % of abnormal Pap smears since the late 1990s
Turkey	Increase in the share of high school students who report having sexual experiences, from 11.3% in 1997 to 22.8% in 2004.
Morocco	Increase in annually reported STI cases from 1990s to 2005. More than 50% of STIs are among single and often young.
Egypt	59% of STDs were predominantly single adults.
Tunisia	The dominant profile of STD clinic attendees are that of young single men with multiple sexual partners.

Source: Abu-Raddad, et al. 2012, Yamazhan et al. 2007, Al-Mutairi et al. 2007

In sum, procreative and regulative generative functions of marriage and family are being challenged in OIC member countries by newly emerging trends. To prevent these trends from taking further momentum, a prompt and nimble response are required that would especially focus on youth.

2.2 Psychological Functions of the Family and the Institution of Marriage

2.2.1 Family as a ‘Personality Factory’ and Early Childhood Development

Family environment is the key predictor for early childhood development. Family, therefore, functions to generate the human capital of future generations necessary for social and economic sustainability.

The reproductive functions of family are not only of biological kind. The family (and marital life as a passage to it) also undertakes psychological functions that are core to human development and therefore to societal and national development. In fact, sociologists of family have defined the family as a ‘personality factory’ (Parsons and Bales 1955): families structure the personality of children and young, while stabilizing personalities of adults. Moreover, family and marital life provide its members emotional support, and work as a buffer against everyday life and outside stressors (UNICEF 2012).

A large and well-established body of research has depicted family as the most adequate institution to shoulder these psychological functions in the modern society: the primary group structure of family equips it with the greatest levels of intimacy, cohesion, and solidarity compared to other socializing agents (impersonal agents such as schools and job market, peer groups, welfare agencies, social networks, etc).

Yet, the psychological functions which the family undertakes in the modern society are especially substantial for children. Families are the first and most immediate caregivers of early childhood, which is the most prominent period for children’s development for gains in this period constitutes “building blocks” of a child’s later growth (Ibid).

In practical terms, family being the most immediate agent of early childhood development indicates that family environment is a key predictor of children’s future outcomes from personality development and academic achievements to engaging risky behavior and physical wellness. The reverse is also true: pathologies in the family will have severe and long-lasting effects on children, in turn on future generations’ overall wellbeing and quality of human capital.

The contemporary society faces family with a variety of interrelating factors that challenge its psychological caregiving functions. In a nutshell, multidisciplinary research agrees that economic hardships, lack of parental education, limited child-parent interaction, and family environment marked by union instability and violence negatively affect children’s psychological wellbeing, personality development, and academic achievements (Usaklı 2013). Although these factors are influential universally the degree to which they undermine psychological functions of family depends on a given cultural context, while different cultural contexts confront family with different challenges as well as prospects.

OIC countries have both advantages and disadvantages compared to other regions in the world. In the first glance, one definite advantage is that OIC countries overall have the lowest rate of non-marital and non-traditional forms of child bearing compared to all regions in the world (Wilcox and Cavallé, 2011). This favors OIC countries because marital union compared to non-marital union is more likely to provide a stable context for bearing and rearing children, and for integrating fathers into the lives of their children

(Lippman and Wilcox 2014). Yet, OIC countries are also struck by a definite disadvantage: poverty and economic hardships (See Section 3)

While keeping these macro demographic realities in the background, to have a deeper understanding of challenges that undermine family's psychological caregiving functions in the OIC countries, the report tracks the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) scores². Due to the lack of comprehensive data, Table 2.2 presents only selected OIC countries³, which may indicate plausible findings that map ongoing patterns and trends⁴.

Table 2.2: ECDI Scores in Selected OIC Countries

Countries	Mauritania	Guinea-Bissau	Benin	Mali	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Oman	Kyrgyzstan	Kazakhstan	Guyana	Turkmenistan
Program Att ⁵	11.9	13.1	13	5.3	13.4	25.7	29.2	22.7	55.3	61	42.8
Parental Support ⁶	43.9	34.2	27.7	54.6	78	35	80.7	72.1	85.6	87.2	94.4
Paternal Support ⁷	4.7	0.3	5.2	5.1	10.1	2.6	22.3	2.8	6.6	15.9	14.8
Maternal Support ⁸	20.6	2.9	13.3	19	40.8	11.8	54.6	29.7	50.7	54.8	80.6
Inadequate Care ⁹	34.4	30.6	34.1	32.2	11.6	6.8	44.7	4.5	5	5	0.8
ECDI	60	61	61.4	61.6	63.9	67.2	68.3	78.3	85.5	85.6	90.9
Violent Discipline ¹⁰	80	82.4	91	72.7	82.3	80.7		57.1	52.7	69.7	
Spousal Violence ¹¹	26.6	41.8	36	72.6		39.8	7.9	32.8	14.2	10.2	26.3
Age difference	81	100	51.2	83.3	42.2	33.4	28.6	12.8	10.3	30	6
Female Literacy ¹²	52.4	50.5	43.9	34.9	82	72.6	95.5	99.3	100	98	99.6
HDI	0.506	0.42	0.48	0.419	0.57	0.538	0.793	0.655	0.788	0.636	0.688

Source: Calculated by SESRIC staff using UNICEF Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Wave

² ECD Index is a measurement tool consisting of a set of 10 questions that assess child development across four domains: Learning, Literacy/Numeracy, Physical Development, and Social/Emotional Development

³ Selection is based on data availability.

⁴ Data differ between Wave 3 and 4 values, coinciding with 2014 and 2015.

⁵ Percentage of children age 36-59 months with who are attending an early childhood programme

⁶ Percentage of children age 36-59 months with whom an adult has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last three days

⁷ Percentage of children age 36-59 months with whose biological father has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last three days

⁸ Percentage of children age 36-59 months with whose biological mother has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last three days

⁹ Where children under age 5 is left alone or in the care of a child younger than 10 years old for more than an hour at least twice a week.

¹⁰ MICS data set defines violent discipline as psychological aggression such as shouting at the child or calling the child 'dumb', 'lazy' or other offensive names as well as physical or corporal punishment such as shaking, slapping or hitting the child.

¹¹ This is used as a proxy name for percentage of women age 15*49 years old who state a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one the following circumstances: 1) she goes out without telling him 2) she neglects her children 3) she argues with him 4) she refuses sex with him 5) she burns the food

¹² Percentage of young women age 15-24 years who are able to read a short simple statement about everyday life or who attend secondary or higher education

The table reveals a clear pattern. In the selected OIC countries, lower scores of early child development index coincide with lower scores in young women's literacy rate and parental support for children's learning. Lower scores also coincide with:

Higher levels of violent discipline towards children, violence against women, and inadequate care of children. Most strikingly, lower ECDI scores also coincide with higher age gap between spouses, where males are at least 10 years older than the females.

At a closer look, among the selected countries, the highest ECDI is found in Turkmenistan. Conforming general findings, Turkmenistan scores the highest in parental and mother's support for children's learning, while it scores lowest in inadequate care of children and spousal age difference. Turkmenistan also scores higher than the average for early childhood program involvement and father's support for children's learning (14 to 7), and lower than the average for violence against women.

Countries with lowest scores on ECDI, predictably, scores the highest in inadequate care, violence against women, and spousal age difference, while scoring lowest in early childhood program involvement, parental support for children's learning, as well as young women's literacy rate.

All in all, levels of inadequate care, spousal age difference, young women's literacy, violence against children and wives emerge as main factors that prevent families in many OIC countries from fully performing their psychological functions.

2.3 Socio-cultural and Political Functions of the Family and the Institution of Marriage

Family undertakes a public calling: it makes society and social order possible by turning out individuals committed to rules and norms, and introduces to children that there is a community and order that transcend individual lives.

Families also make society by handing down culture, values, norms, beliefs, and collective identity and memory to the next generation. The social science literature calls this function of the family 'socialization'; turning human beings into social and cultural beings who act in observance of rules and socially accepted values, and meet individually modified social roles and expectations.

Socialization is a lifelong process and family is not the only socializing agent; however, family assumes a principal position among other agents by delivering primary socialization; the initial introduction of the new generation to the norms and values of society. In fact, studies from variety of disciplines have demonstrated that primary socialization sets the ground for all future socialization. Across basic gender norms, religious belief and values, consumer behavior and political orientations, family influence is greater than other socializing agents, such as peer groups, political parties, interest groups, and markets (Banovcinova et al. 2014)

Family makes society, on the other hand, by making value consensus and social order possible. In fact, this role of family led prominent sociologists to think of family as an institution with a social purpose and a 'public calling' (Parsons and Bales 1955). Family introduces to children that there is a community and

order that transcend individual lives (e.g., Lewis et al. 2009). Family, as such, prepares children for the public sphere and initiates their participation in the production of public good and social order.

Put in practical terms, when families perform their social functions well, they help to safeguard social order and stability, whereas the weakening of family will make societies more vulnerable to disarray. Utilizing family's social functions is particularly important for the OIC countries, where various stressors, most notably political conflict and extremism, challenge stability. To further examine the importance of family's function in the conservation of social and political stability, the report takes a closer look at family influence on political orientations.

2.3.2 Homemade Citizens and Political Stability

The institution of family facilitates good citizenship behavior, most notably youth participation in voting, and reduces the likelihood of children's future engagement of political violence.

As the primary agent of socialization, family has a crucial and enduring impact on children's future political belief. (Duff, 2014, Jennings et al., 2009, Varkey, 2003). Family impacts children's future political outcomes by transmitting basic political orientations and by molding children's political identity. (e.g., Green et al, 2002, Jennings et al., 2009). In fact, a new stream of research has revealed that:

Having a family and being in marital union largely determines voting participation:

This new stream of research has detected that the decline in young adults' voting participation in the Western countries was largely determined by the delay in adult cycle events, namely: an increase in marriage age, and postponement of family formation and home ownership (Beaujot and Kerr, 2007).

For why such delay causes decline in voting turn out, researchers point out to motivation, arguing that familial and marital life help citizens to develop an altruistic sense of political duty, which then motivates political participation (Denver 2008). Arguably, moreover, people who are in a traditional marital union, compared to other domestic arrangements, are more likely to conform to the idea of 'good citizenship and are more attuned to traditional values, including a sense of civic duty. (Ibid).

- People who experienced parental political socialization growing up are less vulnerable to the appeal of propaganda of new ideologies:

Another remarkable finding drawn from this growing body of research on family and political behavior is that children who experience parental political socialization have more stable political attitudes throughout adolescence and young adulthood —when they enter the larger political world and become exposed to various ideologies and political agents. (Jennings et al., 2009 Neundorf et al. 2014). In contrast, children who leave home without parental political socialization are more susceptible to be influenced by political rhetoric and propaganda, including that of aberrant and violent ideologies. (Neundorf et al. 2014). Finally, the same line of study has also shown that people who lack parental impact in making major decisions are statistically more likely to engage in violent protest (Cragin et al., 2015)

These findings suggest that political functions of family and marital union are especially indispensable for the OIC member countries, given the prevalence of political conflict, political violence, and the malaise of violent extremism in these countries. In fact, empirical work in some OIC countries on family and political violence have brought forward the potent role of family in preventing the youth from being allured into extremist ideologies and movements. For example:

- A study in the West Bank (occupied Palestine) has discovered that family plays a greater role than friends in shaping attitudes toward nonviolence, and concluded that family might be the missing link between structural factors and individual level choice for engaging violent behavior (Ibid)
- A study on suicide bombers, which involved the cases of Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, and Palestine, found that bombers had fewer family ties than other terrorist operatives, concluding that family ties moderate influences of radicalization. (Weinberg et al., 2009)
- Another empirical study in Palestine also found that married individuals were less likely to participate in any type of terrorist activity. (Berrebi, 2007)

All in all, these studies further demonstrate that families play a key role in shaping young people's responses to the world towards which they grow autonomy but also where they may encounter harmful rhetoric and propaganda. Family and marriage, in other words, can have an important dampening influence on radicalization. This suggests policymakers to take a more serious approach to the unique role and position of family in reinstating political stability and combatting extremism.

2.4 Economic Functions of Family and the Institution of Marriage

2.4.1 Macroeconomic Functions: National Development

In late capitalist societies, Human Development Index is a major predictor of economic growth. Families impact HDI to a large extent through ECDI scores.

According to classical economic theories, the transition from agricultural to the industrial economy reduced economic functions and importance of family to a great extent by shifting production away from family. With the new modern economic setting, classical theories argued, family's role was going to be confined to warranting the basic welfare of children to providing a safety net for dependents, the sick, elderly, and the disabled, as well as family members in the event of temporary adversities, especially when resources are quickly needed but not readily available. These theories also presumed that as the bureaucratic machinery of state further expanded through hospitals, schools, and social welfare; these economic functions of the family were to become more and more trivial. Classical approaches, moreover, considered physical capital as the key factor of economic growth.

A growing number of studies, nevertheless, have challenged the classical theory on family and economic development. These studies have revealed that in the context of late-capitalist economy, family and marital union have taken up new and rather indispensable economic roles. In fact, this new approach has

demonstrated that the key determinant of national income generation and economic growth is human capital (Barro and Sala-i-Martin, 2004), and pointed to family as the main medium through which human capital is produced and developed (Becker, 2008).

For example, family environment and parents impact children's future economic outcomes by impacting how many years of schooling children will have, their academic achievements and engagement of risky behaviour, their future marital stability, and work ethics, earnings, and occupations (Becker, 2008).

This tight connection between human capital and family is pinned down by a recent UNICEF study, which revealed a high correlation between Human Development Index (HDI) and Early Childhood Development Index (UNICEF, 2015). In other words, the path from family to economic development goes through ECDI, which in turn impacts HDI. The UNICEF analysis also highlights that benefits of investment in child development diminish if the investment is delayed beyond a certain age, revealing the indispensable role of family, being the primary socializing agent of early life stages, for childhood development and in turn for human capital and economic development

As was shown in the previous section, family environment predicts ECDI through various channels. For example, it is parents' decision whether a child would receive required nutrition or education, or other aspects of adequate care necessary fundamental for the development of each individual. Keystone economic literature too reveals that each dollar spent for the aspects of the child development such as cognitive development, development of social and physical environment is an investment in the formation of the human capital of the country in the future.

It follows that stable families are important in shaping human and social capital in a society. Strong and healthy families can make optimal decisions about efficient use of resources for child and youth development can further strengthen families and thereby reduces poverty and promotes economic growth. Certainly, financial resources allocated to a child will depend on a given family's financial wellbeing; however, adequate and optimal family care (such as boiling water in households that lack piped water) can compensate for the lack of resources and may even matter more than income level.

Family's macroeconomic function, through its impact on the HDI, is also visible in the OIC countries. As can be seen from Table 2.2 (ECDI scores in Selected OIC Countries) OIC countries with the highest ECDI scores also score high in HDI.

In the OIC countries, one particular challenge families are facing in undertaking parental care is the increasing trend for the employment of both parents in the workforce along with increased female labour participation (See Figure 3.12). When both parents work fewer efforts are made for children's parental socialization and education at home.

This problem could be tapered if both parents shared equal parental responsibilities across all fronts, however, within the overall cultural context of the OIC countries, mothers, even when they participate at the work force, are expected to be the main caregivers of children for almost all needs. In fact, the last wave of World Value Survey shows that a majority of population in selected OIC countries agree with the clause that 'children suffer when mother works' (Table 3.3).

Table 2.3: When a mother works for pay, the children suffer (in %)

	Total	Female		Male	
	Agree strongly & Agree	Agree strongly	Agree	Agree strongly	Agree
Selected OIC (21)	60.4	23.0	33.1	30.2	34.4
Selected non-OIC developing (24)	47.8	16.2	31.0	16.2	32.2
Selected developed (15)	29.0	4.8	22.6	4.9	25.8
World	47.0	15.3	29.4	18.0	31.3

Source: SESRIC staff calculations using World Values Survey Online Dataset

More specifically, 60.4% respondents across selected OIC countries agree that children suffer when mothers work for pay. Furthermore, there is no wide discrepancy in the answers across the sexes, that is both men and women agree that mother's paid work affects children negatively.

It should also be noted, however, that while gender stereotypes influence the agreement with the above clause, this confirmation may also stem from individual experiences shaped in an economic and political environment that lack targeted support for parental investment on children's development. The result of the survey therefore constitutes a wake-up call to policymakers to seek policies that can balance family investment on children and female labour participation, without sacrificing one for the sake of other.

All in all, the major impact of family environment on HDI highlights the importance of family for economic development, and calls policy makers to develop child-related policies and priorities in relevant investment programs.

2.4.2 Microeconomic Functions of Family:

2.4.2.1 Consumer Spending

The financial sustainability and growth of various sectors depend on family consumption and family centered consumption decisions.

Sustainable families positively impact national wealth generation also through micro economic functions. Aguirre (2006) formulates how the micro economic functions of family affect the three fundamental economic activities: production, exchange, and consumption (Table 2.4).

Table 2.4: How Does the Family Fit in the Economy?

Basic Activities	Means Used	Role of the Family	Purpose
Production	Resources and Optimization	Human Capital	Basic Needs
Exchange	Market	Human, Moral, Social Capital	Income and Profit
Consumption	Buying Power and Distribution	Appropriate Distribution	Well-being

Source: Aguirre (2006).

Within this formulation, for production to take place, individuals need to use their resources, mainly with their human capital, and get returns for their contribution to the production process. In order to receive income or compensation for production, everyone must exchange goods and services they produced, fully or partly, in a market and then spend this compensation to meet the needs of the family. This will ultimately serve the purpose of increasing the well-being of the family.

On the other hand, family constitutes a crucial consumer segment in the late-capitalist societies. While making such decisions as where to live and work, how much to save, and where to invest families often act in the lights of potential consequences of their decisions on the family unit. Especially, in the case of the modern home-centered family, money is spent on and in the name of the family rather than the individual.

In fact, from the business perspective, several sectors' performance depends on and increases with marriage and fertility rate increase (Wilcox et al, 2011). To put it simply, the average family regularly purchases consumer goods, which contributes to the production and income generation in related sectors. These sectors most notably include healthcare, juvenile products, home maintenance, household products, child care, groceries and food at home, and life and health insurance. As the performance of these sectors is directly related to the marriage and fertility, the decline in these indicators will have adverse effects on their growth. This is exactly what happened in the U.S. The significant decline in marriage and fertility rates since the 1970s, accompanied by rising rates of divorce, single parenthood, and lifelong singleness, have degraded the market for companies that depend on married families with children (Wilcox and Cavallé, 2011). In the OIC context, currently marital and fertility rates are higher than other regions, and non-traditional marital and family structures are not as prevalent. However, demographic trends signal decrease in fertility and marriage rates as well as increase in divorce rates in coming years. If these trends continue, eventually, they will adversely impact the performance of sectors that rely heavily on family consumption.

2.4.2.2. Family Firms

Families not only generate a big chunk of the GDP, but they also facilitate an economic culture marked by egalitarian behaviour, entrepreneurship, social responsibility and charity.

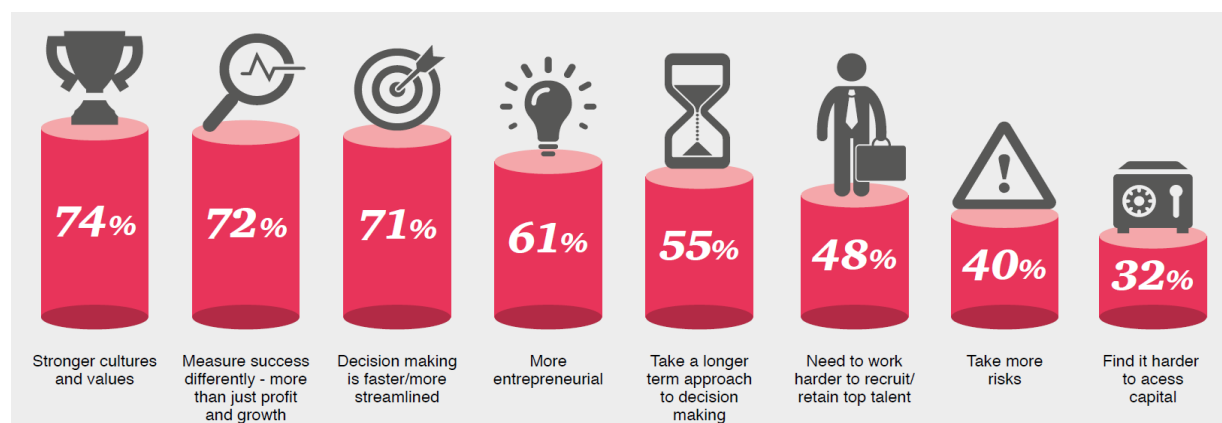
Another aspect of participation of families in economic activities is family firms, where families take initiative in realizing their own business ideas and in which multiple members of the same family are involved as major owners or managers, either contemporaneously or over time (Miller & Canella, 2007).

According to global estimates compiled by Family Firm Institute, family firms account around 60-90% of all businesses worldwide and they account for around 70-90% of global GDP.¹³

¹³ Global Data Points on family businesses are available on <http://www.ffi.org/page/globaldatapoints>, accessed on 20 December 2016.

A report published by Credit Suisse, one the other hand, shows that family enterprises represent anywhere from 80% of all businesses in developed economies to 98% of all businesses in emerging economies (Credit Suisse, 2012). They are responsible for around 64% to 75% of the GDP of individual countries, achieve some 6.7% to 16% higher annual returns on assets and shareholder equity than other businesses¹⁴. Additionally, between 50-80% of jobs are created by family businesses in many countries. The Institute also reports that 85% of start-up companies are established with family money. Families play a role of natural incubators of an entrepreneurial culture and foster the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Figure 2.5: How Family Businesses Differ from Non-family businesses



Source: PwC Family Business Survey 2016. Q: Benefits of family businesses: please tell me how much you agree/disagree with the following option on a scale of 1-5 where 1=Disagree strongly and 5=Agree strongly.

In the Middle East, most of the region's GDP outside the oil sector and over 80% of its businesses are either family-run or family controlled.

Family firms 'contribution to economy is not limited monetary outcomes. They also shape the culture of economic activity, as can be seen from figure 1. In particular, family firms are more likely to promote a high sense of social responsibility, to endure entrepreneurial spirit, to reinvest profits, and to consider success as more than just profit and growth (PwC, 2016). They are also are less likely to lay people off and more likely to hire despite the possibility of an economic downturn (Tharawat Magazine, 2014). Furthermore, they are more likely to give charitably to their respective communities, to be financially more prudent, and have a longer-term strategic outlook. However, the lack of longevity of family businesses is a major cause for concern. It is evidenced that only few can proceed to the second generation, and even fewer make it to subsequent generations.

Despite the great contribution to the economy, family firms in many countries think that they are not adequately supported by governments. According to PwC (2012), net agreement that government recognizes the importance of family businesses is negative in many developed and developing countries. The highest score is observed in Middle East, where the score equals to 34%, whereas it is 21% in Turkey.

¹⁴ Ibid

17 countries out of the 28 countries or regions included in the survey report a negative attitude of government towards family firms.

Overall, either as a consumer, supplier, producer or entrepreneur, family is a great catalyzer of economic activity. It is a natural learning center where next generation acquires the values for responsible consumption and investment, hard work, and productivity. In brief, to augment families' contribution to economic life in the society both governments and the private sector should pay great attention to and devise innovative mechanisms safeguarding family and marital value.

INFO BOX 1: Food for Thought: Can the Private Sector Help to Safeguard Family Values?

Due to intense competition in the modern job market and economic insecurity, working women are discouraged to have children, while ones with children find it increasingly more difficult to invest substantial time and care on their existing children. Although there exist governmental policies supporting parental care, standard policies have been limited, unable to provide incentives for couples to have children even in developed country settings. In the private sector, however, some global companies were able to come up with creative approaches that have proven to help employees to achieve a better work-family balance. Here are some company level best and most innovative practices that may inspire businesses in the OIC context, while enabling further alliance between the government and the private sector.

Amazon: The company introduced "leave share" program that allows employees sharing part or full of their paid leaves with spouses who do not have it.

Domo: The company is offering a 2,000\$ certificate for pregnant employees that can be used to buy maternity clothes. While new dads also get 2 weeks full paid paternity leave and all new parents are presented with 1,000\$ to buy babies stuff.

Optimizely: The company advocate increasing leaves and other parental benefits. Through open online sources, they explain how was laid the fundament for increased parental leave, how their model works and benefits to enhance the employee productivity and others. Finally, the company offers help for others in structuring their own models.

3. How are Families and Marital Life Changing in the New Millennium?

Mapping Key Risks and Prospects

Modernization and globalization transformed economic, demographic, and cultural landscape of societies across the world, and generated substantial shifts in familial and marital life, union, values, patterns and structure. This section examines key shifts family and marital union have been exposed to and identifies emerging trends that will face families in OIC societies in the coming decades. The section identifies three primary areas: demographic, economic and cultural changes, covering as such a wide ranging from age at first marriage to educational attainment to Gen-Y's (Generation Y) value transformation.

3.1 Demographic Changes: Population Dynamics, Family and Marriage

Families and the institution of marriage are undergoing considerable changes which are shaping the societies of OIC countries. Many of these changes have been driven by demographic trends which have transformed the daily lives and developmental trajectories for OIC countries in recent years. Thus analyzing demographic indicators and trends serves as a prerequisite for the study and family and marriage. This section is devoted to analyzing a set of demographic indicators that are related to families. This section starts with the analysis of fertility rates before moving on to changes in population structure towards more elderly people, youth bulge, household size, ending with the analysis of marriage and divorce rates.

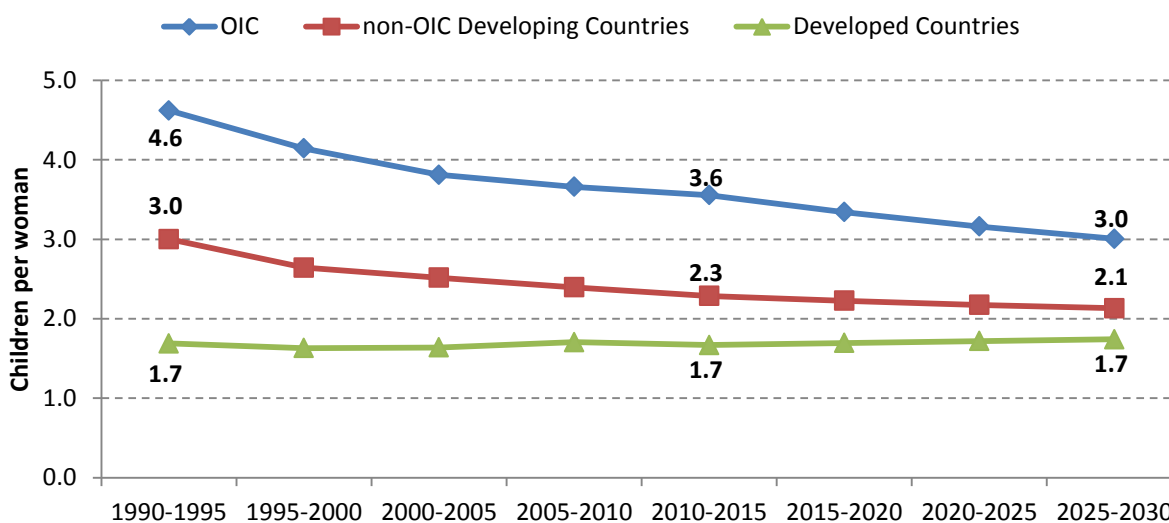
3.1.1 Fertility

Procreation is the main function of marital union and familial life, and fertility rate is the main indicator of this particular function. As such, the fertility rate, and changes in this rate, is a telling sign whether or not families are faced with pressures for childbearing in a given society. In other words, fertility rate reveals clues about families' wellbeing and strength and hints about possible evolutionary patterns in family structure and formations.

At a broader level, fertility rate is also an indicator of potential population change. More specifically put, a fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman is considered the replacement rate for a population, which is the minimum required to maintain a stable population.

Since the 1990s, as shown in figure 3.1, there has been a global trend towards fertility reduction across country groups, including the OIC, showing overall that globally families are faced with pressures to reduce child rearing. The rate is particularly high, and has a longer history, in the Developed country group. The reduction in the developed group went hand in hand with the rise of non-traditional forms of marital union, generating non-traditional family types, such as childless families.

Figure 3.1: Fertility Rates

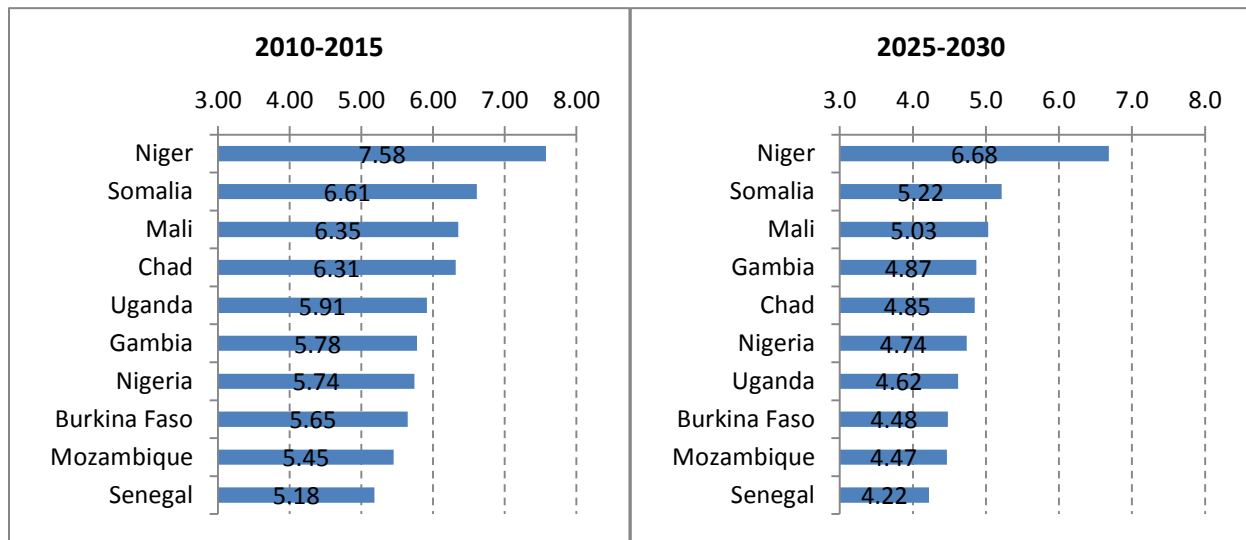


Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the UN World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision. Data weighted by country populations so that more populous countries affect the average more than smaller countries.

The OIC fertility rate decline is not as alarming as other country groups; however, the trend itself signals that decline will continue. In fact, as discussed in Section 3, in the coming decades, fertility levels in OIC countries will be significantly reduced, putting many OIC members below population replacement level (See Figure 2.3) while possibly giving way to non-traditional forms of family to emerge.

On the other hand, not all OIC countries will be experiencing severe reductions. Figure 3.2 (left) shows the OIC countries with the highest fertility rates currently (2010-2015); the overwhelming majority of highest fertility rate OIC countries are located in Sub-Saharan Africa. This trend will only be solidified within time. By 2030, all the 10 OIC countries with the highest fertility rates again will be in Sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 3.2, right).

Indeed, lower fertility rates are not always a negative trend. Lower fertility rates need to be addressed within the overall economic development of a given country. Case in point is OIC countries located in Sub-Saharan Africa. As Figure 3.2 indicates, OIC countries in Sub-Saharan Africa will continue to be significantly higher than the replacement rate. In this particular context, lower fertility rates will allow parents to spend their limited resources and care on a smaller number of children, thus the amount of financial and otherwise resources allocated per child will go up. This will allow for better child nutrition, better education, and better health and as a result the human capital in those countries will increase providing the bases for more productive economics and higher levels of economic development.

Figure 3.2: 10 OIC Countries with the Highest Fertility Rates

Source: UN World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

In sum, looking at the fertility rate, two main trends emerge in the OIC country group that may challenge wellbeing, unity, and values of marriage and family: a future trend signaling severe declines in childrearing, which would affect family formation, size, and structure— possibly giving way to non-traditional family formations and values. Second is the continuation of a high fertility rate in Sub-Saharan Africa, pressuring families in terms of material and otherwise resources.

3.1.2 Changes in Population Structure towards more Elderly People

Trends in fertility and life expectancy are transforming population structures and changing population structure has implications for families and marital union.

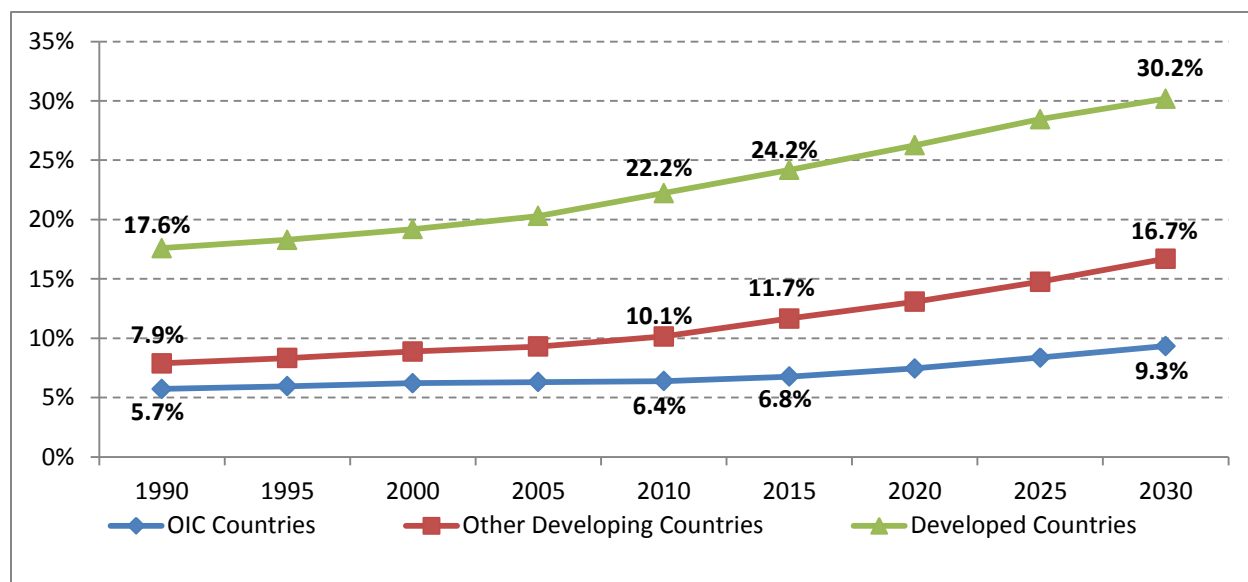
Globally, in last few decades, the change in the population structure has been towards an ageing population—, albeit, the stages and speed of ageing are quite different depending on the country group.

In OIC countries, as the Figure 3.3 reveals, the share of population aged 60 or over was somewhat stable between the years 1990 to 2010, increasing slightly from 5.7% in 1990 to 6.4% in 2010, corresponding to an increase of 12.3%. For the same period (1990-2010), the increase in the share of population aged 60 or over was observed to be 27.8% in non-OIC developing countries and 26.1% in developed countries. While OIC ageing rate is substantially lower than other country groups, 2015 onwards, the speed of ageing in OIC countries is projected to accelerate. Indeed, between 2010 and 2030, a remarkable 45.3% increase is projected. Put in a different way, while in the 1990s, only 12.2% of the world' elderly lived in OIC countries, by the year 2030, the OIC group share will be 14.7%.¹⁵ However, OIC country is also marked by regional differences: In 2015, the list of 10 OIC countries with the lowest share of population aged 60 or over is a mix of countries from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Sub Saharan Africa; however, by 2030 the list will be completely dominated by Sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁶

¹⁵ Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the UN World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision.

¹⁶ Ibid

Figure 3.3: Share of Population aged 60 or over



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the UN World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision. Data weighted by country populations so that more populous countries affect the average more than smaller countries

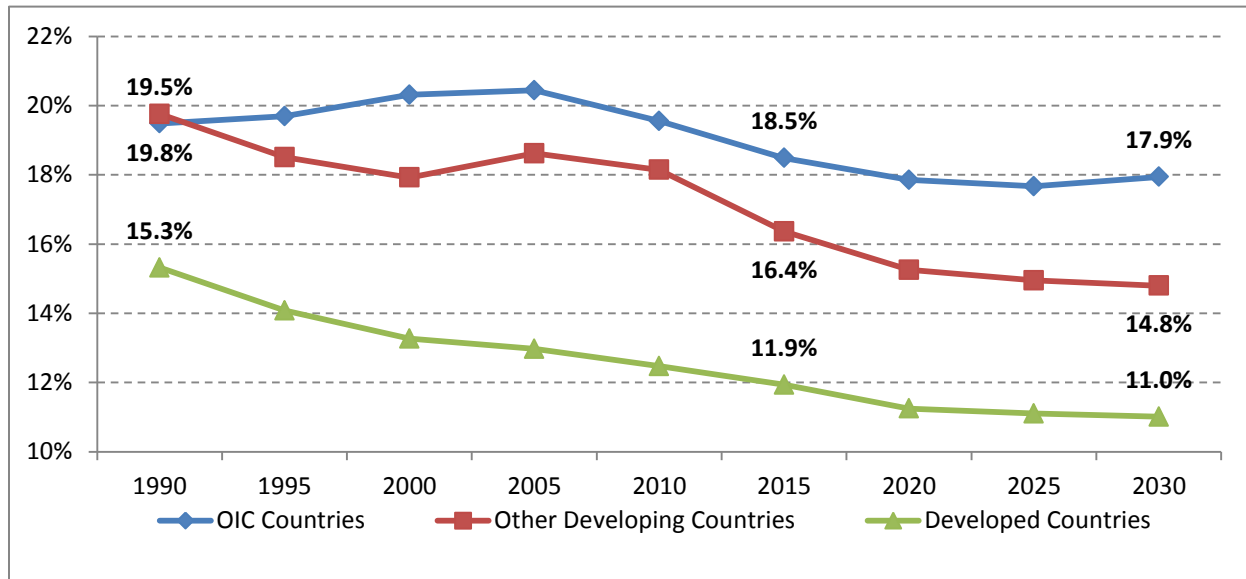
Despite this difference, taken overall, the ageing rate in OIC as well as the increase in its share of world’s elderly suggests that the issue of ageing need to be mainstreamed into family policies, from health care to social security systems. The ageing structure- will face OIC countries with serious challenges requiring greater public spending on pensions and support for retired people. Currently, in OIC countries social security systems and public institutions for caring for elderly people are underdeveloped and families are expected to care for their elderly. In fact, across OIC countries, it is frowned upon to send an elderly parent to a nursing home, because it would violate the general social and religious feelings of commitment towards family. But, in the modern urban context, families are already income-constrained and caring for one’s parents can be quite costly depleting family savings, especially given the lack of social insurance systems and supplemental funds for supporting home care in most OIC countries (Sibai, Tohme & Yount 2012). Thus, with a population structure shift towards more elderly people in OIC countries, families will come under added pressure to care for the elderly.

3.1.3 Youth Bulge

While one future trend in the changing population structure in OIC is countries is ageing, the demographic structure of OIC countries is still younger than the rest of the world. In 2015, the share of youth population (15-24 years old) to the total population is 18.5% in OIC countries. In 2030, it will drop slightly to 17.9% (Figure 3.4). This compares favourably with other country groups.

In non-OIC developing countries, the share of youth population to the total population is projected to fall to 14.8% by year 2030. As for developed countries, the share of youth population to the total population is projected to fall to 11.0% by year 2030.

Figure 3.4: Share of Youth Population (15-24 years old)

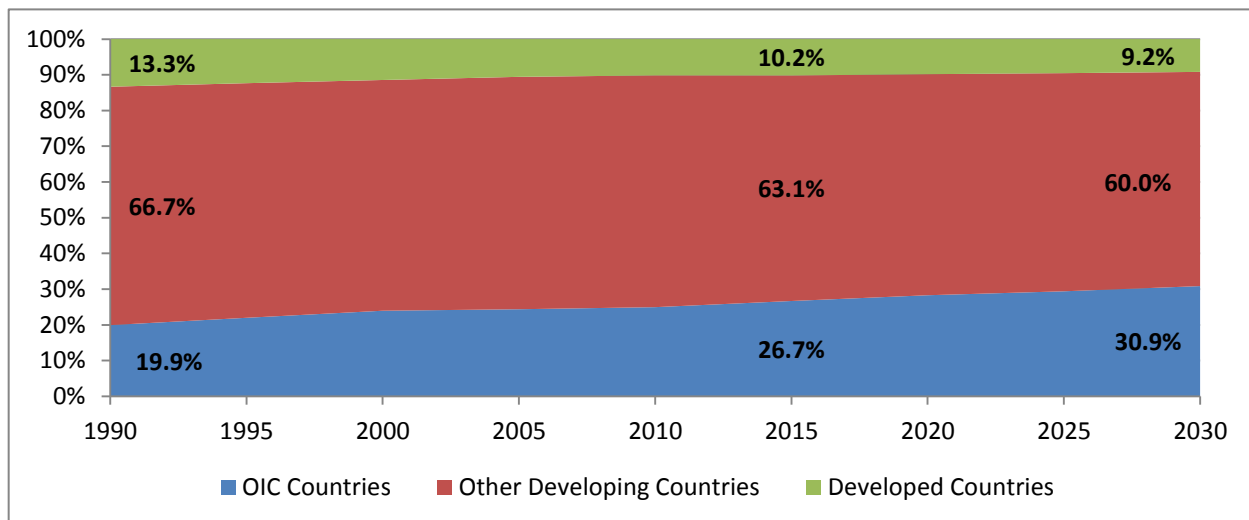


Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the UN World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

Importantly, the share of OIC countries in total world youth population is in steady increase in contrast to non-OIC developing countries and the developed world. In 2015, 26.7% of the world’s youth lived in OIC countries and this share is projected to reach 30.9% by 2030 (Figure 3.5), which means that by 2030 a little less than one third of the world’s youth population will be residing in OIC countries.

The above figures clearly reveal that OIC countries are experiencing a youth bulge, a term coined by social scientists to describe societies with rapidly growing young populations.

Figure 3.5: Geographical Distribution of World’s Youth (aged 15-24)



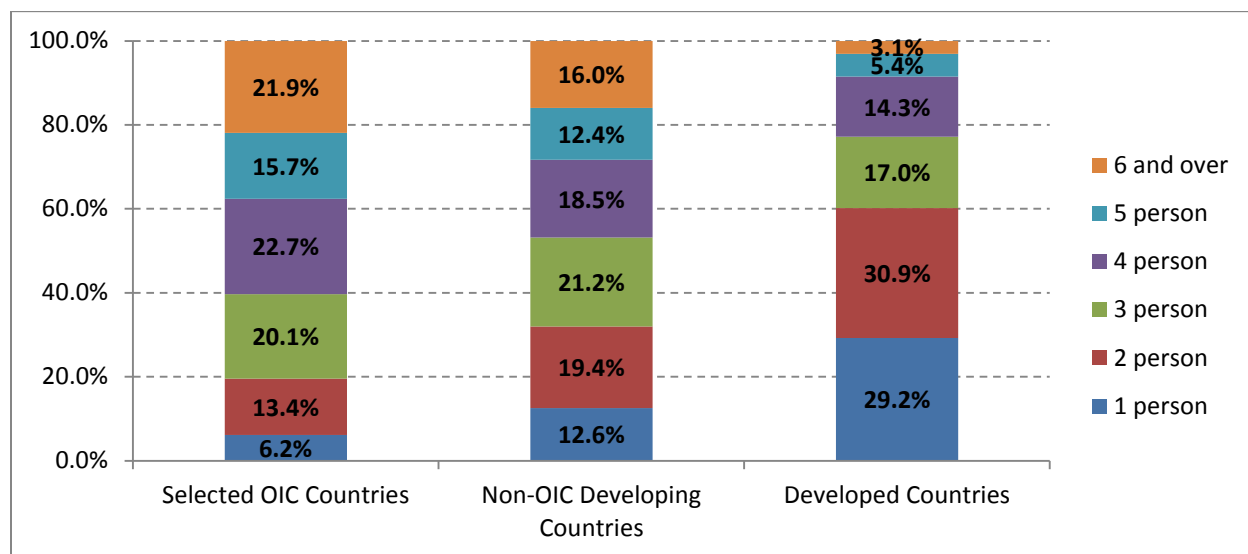
Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the UN World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision

The youth bulge is one of the most important strengths –if effectively utilized - of the OIC member countries carrying the potential to create enormous dynamism in development efforts and catching up process. In order to seize the opportunity offered by the youth bulge, youth must be included in society and in the economy. Unfortunately, in many OIC countries youth suffer from high rates of unemployment, where youth unemployment rates remained above 16% in 2016; acting as a formidable barrier to buying or renting a house, getting married and starting a family (SESRIC, 2016a). This has contributed to an increase in the age at first marriage and the age of mothers at first childbirth, in turn affecting the fertility rate with the probability of newer generations having fewer children than previous generations

3.1.4 Household Size

Household size refers to the number of people living together in an individual house, and provides insight into the structure of households and families. Figure 3.6 shows the household size in selected OIC countries in comparison to other country groups.

Figure 3.6: Household Size (1995-2014)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculations based on the UN he United Nations Statistics Division. Data available for the following OIC countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mali, Oman, Palestine, Suriname, Uganda.

As the Figure reveals, in the selected OIC countries household tend to be larger in size with almost 60% of household consisting of four members or larger. In comparison the percentage of household with four members or larger in non-OIC Developing Countries and Developed Countries is 46.8% and 22.8% respectively.

In OIC countries very few household consist of one or two members (19.6%) whereas in non-OIC developing countries the percentage is 32.0% and in developed countries 60.2%. The larger household size observed in the selected OIC countries has many positive implications including efficient use of homes, allows for the efficient development of infrastructure and the efficient distribution of governmental services, more social living (by virtue of being closer to people) and smaller carbon footprint.

Although household size in OIC countries is relatively large, household size is trending lower overtime mainly due to modernization and urbanization. Traditional families in OIC countries generally consisted of large number of family members holding strong family ties. Nonetheless, social and economic modernization generally entails a shift from extended to nuclear family. Social elements started to lose their social ties and individualism has risen resulting in different values and priorities to the different generations within the family. These changes have led to conflict in families, especially in parent-adolescent relationship. Relations have also evolved as families change from the traditional patriarchal type to more individualistic. This changing trend gives rise to new conflicts within the family about the appropriate roles of members. This conflict is often related to generational differences that result when youth strive for new modern and mainstream culture while their elders focus on maintaining collectivistic cultural traditions. A clash between parents and children over cultural values lead a typical generation gap during adolescent years by increasing misunderstandings and miscommunications (Choi & Harachi, 2008).

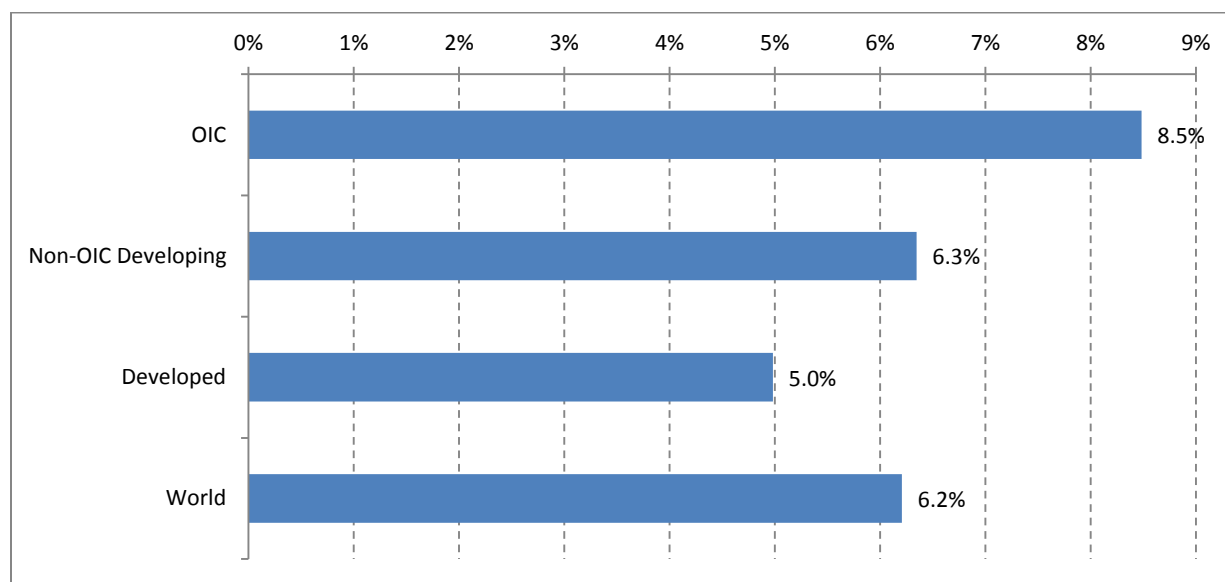
3.1.5 Marriage and Divorce

The family is not a static institution. In recent decades, marriage rates have fallen, divorce rates have increased and the character of marriage has changed. These developments have occurred in the wake of widespread social, legal, and technological changes that have impacted the incentives for individuals to form and invest in marriages and children (Isen & Stevenson, 2008). However, these changes have not impacted all regions and families equally and in order to identify the key trends and changes in OIC countries, this sub-section analyses marriage and divorce rates in OIC countries, in a comparative manner with other country groups.

Figure 3.7 lays out some facts about marriage in different country groups between 2010 and 2014. According to Figure, the OIC country grouping has the highest marriage rate¹⁷ at 8.5% during the aforementioned years. In comparison, during the same time period, the average marriage rates in non-OIC developing countries were 6.3% which is slightly higher than the world average of 6.2%. The lowest marriage average rate is observed in developed countries (5.0%).

¹⁷ According to the UN-DESA, The marriage rate is the annual number of marriages per 1000 population. Marriage is defined as “the act ceremony or process by which legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted” (UN, 2001, para. 56).

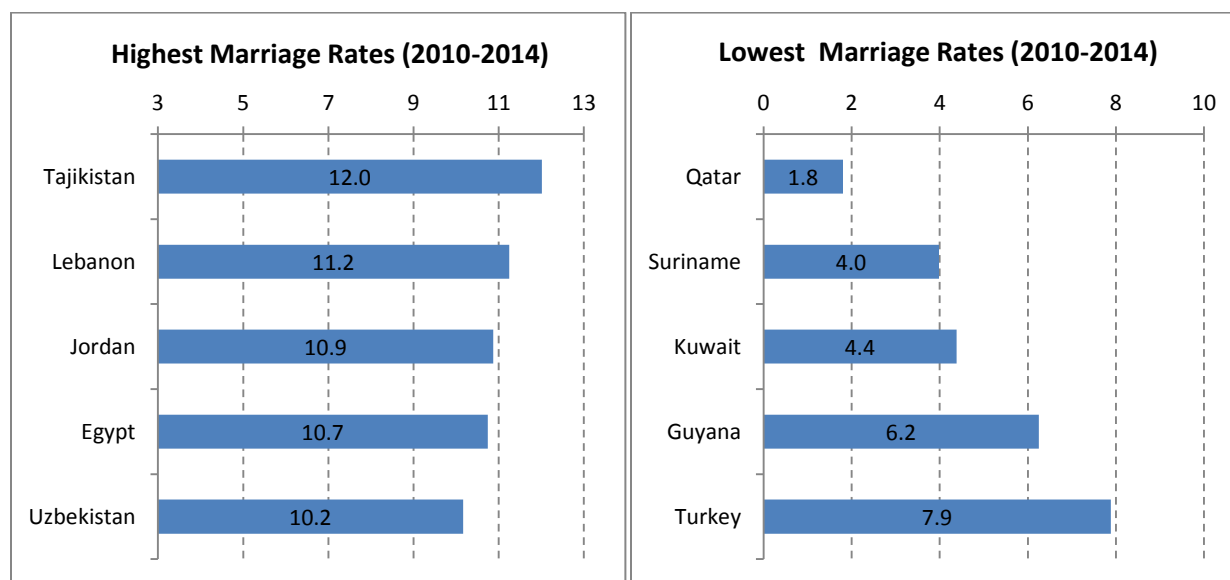
Figure 3.7: Marriage Rates (2010-2014)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculation based on UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. World Marriage Data.

At the individual country level, OIC is not a homogenous group in terms of marriage rates. Among OIC members, the highest marriage rate is observed in Tajikistan with 12%, which is almost double the world average of 6.2%. On the other hand, Qatar recorded the lowest marriage rate among OIC countries with the rate of 1.8% (Figure 14).

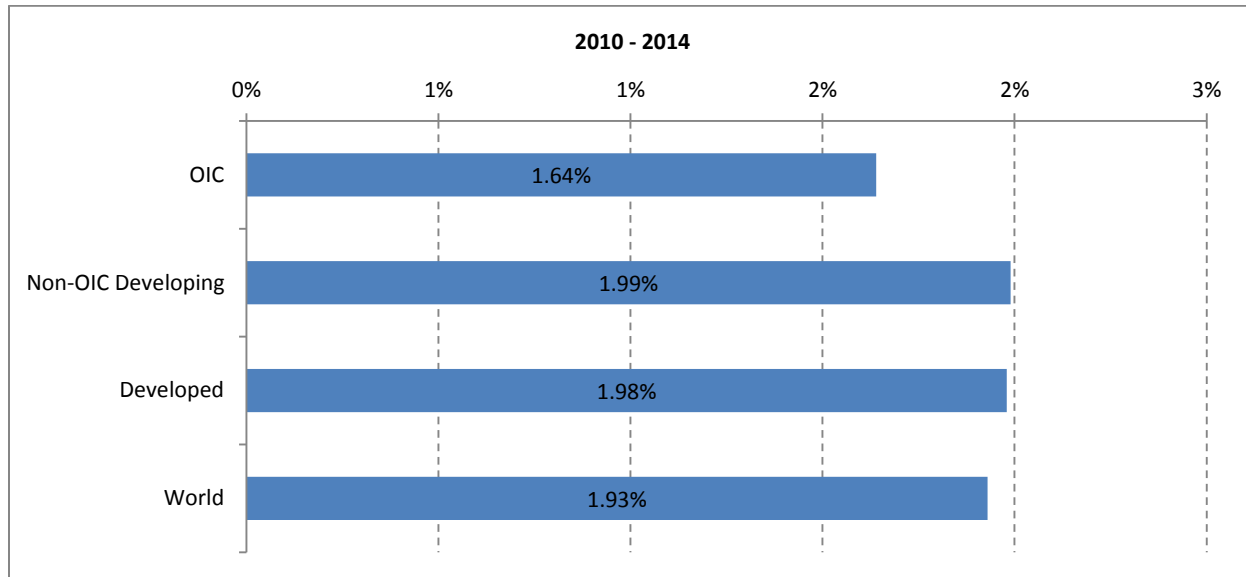
Figure 3.8: OIC Countries with the Highest and Lowest Marriage Rate



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculation based on UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

Figure 3.9 presents divorce rates¹⁸ using the latest available data between 2010 and 2014. According to the figure, the OIC group witnessed the lowest incidence of divorce (1.64%) compared with other country groups.

Figure 3.9: Divorce Rates (2010 - 2014)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculation based on UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

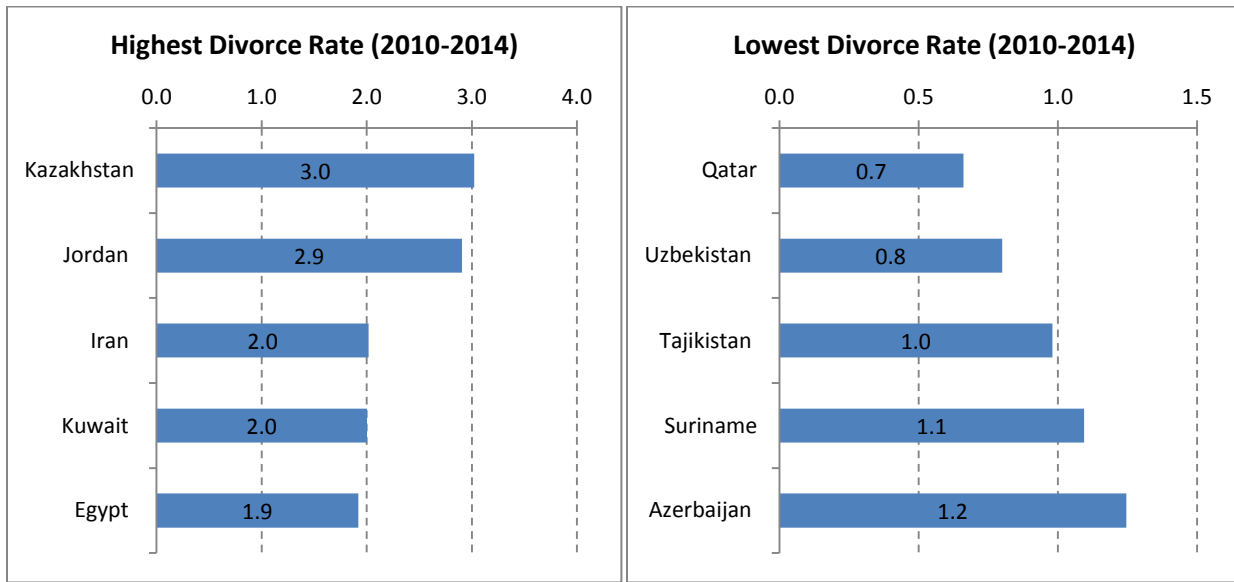
At the individual country level, two OIC countries, Qatar and Uzbekistan, recorded less than 1% divorce rate (Figure 3.10). Nonetheless, there are four OIC member countries, Kazakhstan (3%), Jordan (2.9%), Iran (2.0%) and Kuwait (2.0%), with quite high divorce rates that their averages in fact surpass the average divorce rate of the other country groups and the global average.

These high divorce rates have made the single-parent family more prevalent. The single-parent family which challenges the traditional structure and roles within the family has the potential to become an acceptable model to youth aspiring to form their own families thus jeopardizing the values and institution of marriage as we know it in OIC countries. Therefore, policy makers in these member countries need to take actions in order to reverse the trend in divorce rates that constitutes a serious threat for the family structure and well-being. Otherwise, the member countries will have to embrace more divorced couples and children raised by a single parent.

As well as divorce and marriage rate, age at first marriage (AFM) is also important an indicator since AFM has serious implications for women, family formation and structure, and marital union. For example, according to Haloi and Limbu (2013), fertility rate tends to go down as AFM increases.

¹⁸ Divorce Rate is the number of divorces per 1,000 populations. Divorce rate figures are calculated by using the definition that “a final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, the separation of husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to remarriage under civil, religious and/or other provisions, according to the laws of each country” (UN, 2001, para. 57).

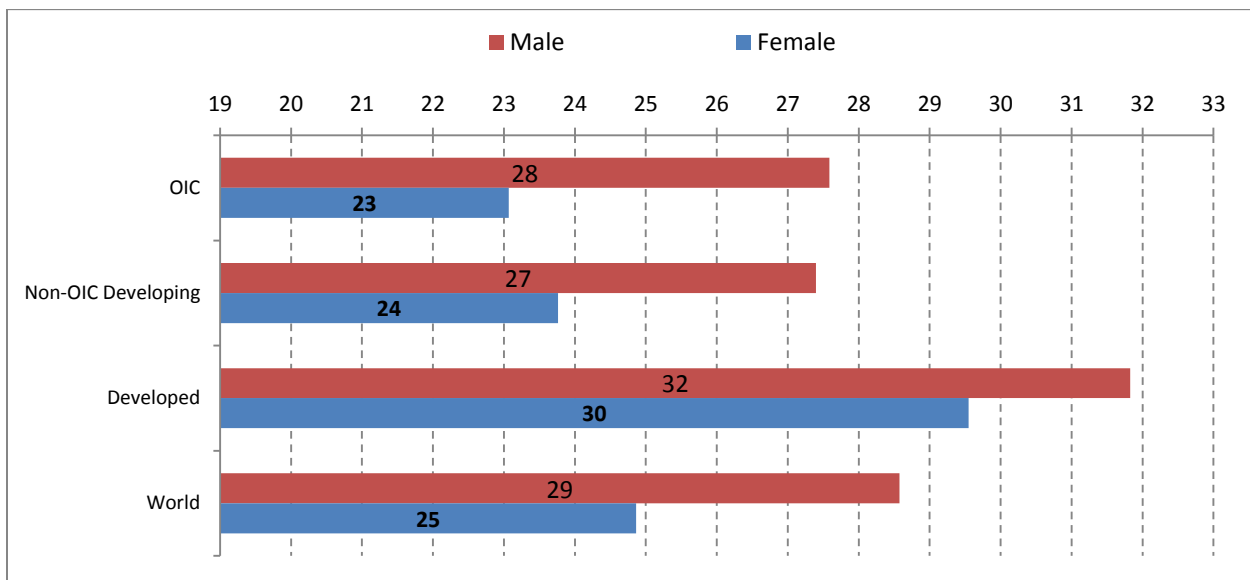
Figure 3.10: OIC Countries with the Highest and Lowest Divorce Rates



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculation based on UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

Figure 3.11 displays the age at first marriage (AFM) across country groups between 2006 and 2014. As the figure shows, the global AFM average is 29 for males and 25 for females. In developed countries, people tend to marry at relatively older ages where AFM for males is 32 and 30 for females, putting them at high risk of serious fertility rate decline and associated economic instability. In OIC member countries, on average AFM for males and females are 28 and 23 respectively.

Figure 3.11: Age at First Marriage (AFM), 2006-2014



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculation based on UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

Overall, according to AFM figures, the OIC group has the lowest AFM average for female population. In other words, a sharp increase in AFM is not a current threat to the OIC group. However, AFM can be expected to increase eventually along with increased urbanization, industrialization, and educational enrolment.

On the other hand, in OIC group, a more immediate threat to family and marital well-being is early marriage. The implications of early marriage to family union will be detailed under Section 3, however, it should be noted here that early marriage, typically followed by early pregnancy, constitutes a serious threat not only to individuals, particularly women’s, physical and emotional health, but also to the wellbeing of family, negatively influencing most notably cognitive, emotional, and physical development of children. Additionally, the age gap between couples at the first marriage is also the highest in the OIC countries which may bear problems such as limited cohesion between couples thus reduces happiness and well-being of family (SESRIC, 2016b)

3.2 Economic changes: Economic Dynamics, Family and Marriage

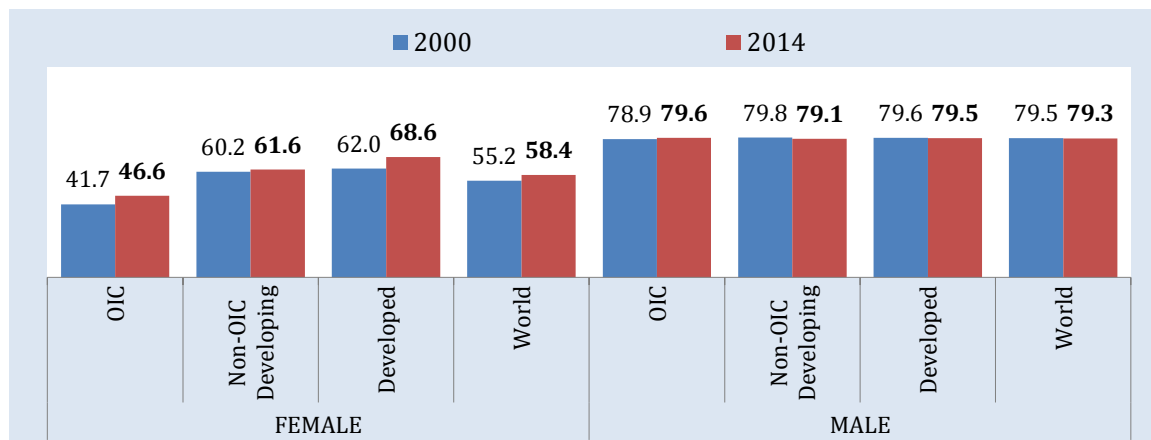
Economic changes in a society not only affect life styles of individuals but also lead to evolution in family values, structure of family, roles of couples in a family as well as marriage decisions of men and women. In this regard, this section looks at and elaborates how changes in major economic factors have affected family values and institution of marriage by benefiting from existing literature as well as assessing available datasets with a specific focus on OIC countries.

3.2.1 Industrialization and Employment

The rise of industrialization and the major shift seen in employment trends from agriculture towards non-agricultural sectors (services and industry) have affected the institution of family in several ways at the global level. Family institution in OIC countries also did not stay unaffected from these changes.

Industrialization led to an increase in labour demand in towns and cities. This paved the way for increased migration from rural to urban areas. In urban areas, more family members in addition to father (husband) need to be active and generate income in the labour market in order to meet the increased cost of living. This is one of the reasons why more women need to officially participate into labour force and seek for an employment opportunity (Cho and Koo, 1983, Clark et al., 1991).

Figure 3.12: Labour Force Participation Rate (%), by Sex and Country Groups, 2000 vs. 2014

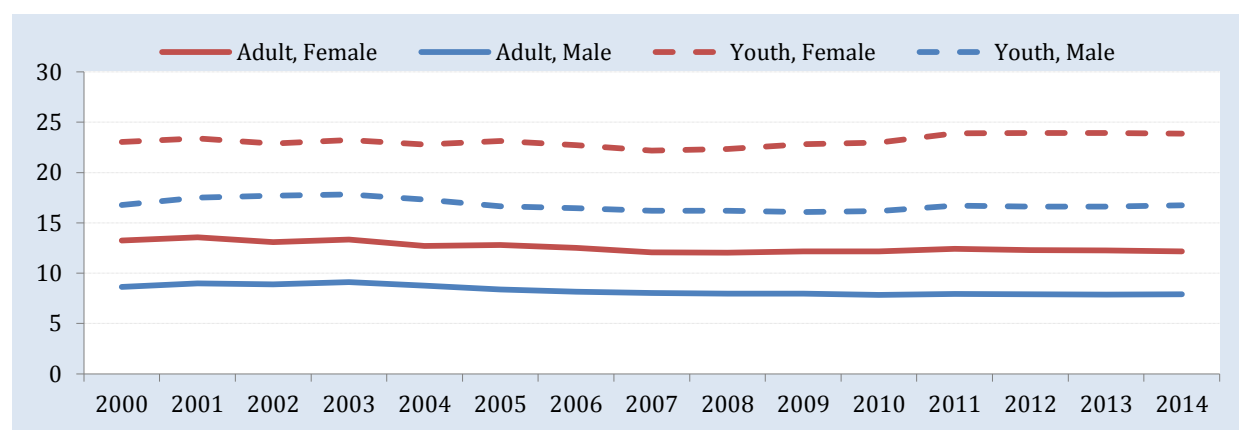


Source: World Bank, Gender Statistics.

Accordingly, in OIC countries, women’s participation in the labour market increased steadily from 41.7% in 2000 to 46.6% in 2014. In contrast, Labour Force Participation Rate for men in OIC countries remained steady over the same period, around 79%.

Despite this steady increase, unemployment continues to pressure issue both for male and female population in OIC countries, but women are particularly struck by it. As Figure 3.12 indicates, for instance, in 2014, female youth unemployment rate was estimated at 23.9% whereas the male youth unemployment rate was only 16.7%. Unemployment continues to pose a risk for family well-being and union (Ström, 2003). It has a serious impact on parents’ dignity. It affects their and economic status, emotional well-being, effective functioning (Raesetsa, 2009).

Figure 3.13: Adult and Youth Unemployment Rates (%) in OIC Countries, by Sex



Source: World Bank, Gender Statistics.

All these trends about industrialization and employment bear some important implications on family values and formation. Increased participation of female population into labour markets has challenged the traditional roles of women and men in a family (Clark et al., 1991). Due to industrialization and increased rates of employment of female population, more women gained their economic independence. While this development facilitates gender equality and national economic growth, it also has resulted in new pressures on women in regards to balancing work, motherhood, and wifehood. This has implications for husband, children and the state of family institution in general, but children are particularly affected by mothers’ being have to divide their time and energy between home and markets, at times at the expense of parental care. In fact, industrialization also led to an increase on employment pressure on other members of families (i.e. husband, children), consequently, families have started to spend less time together when compared to pre-industrialization era both in developed countries and developing countries.

Industrialization and employment also have substantial effect on the institution of marriage. Due to increased pressure to find a decent job both for men and women, the average years spent on education went up at the global level that led to an increase in the average age for first marriage (i.e. late marriage). Increased average age of first marriage for men and women usually associate with lowered fertility rates for women, reduction in the average family size, and increased pressure on social security systems.

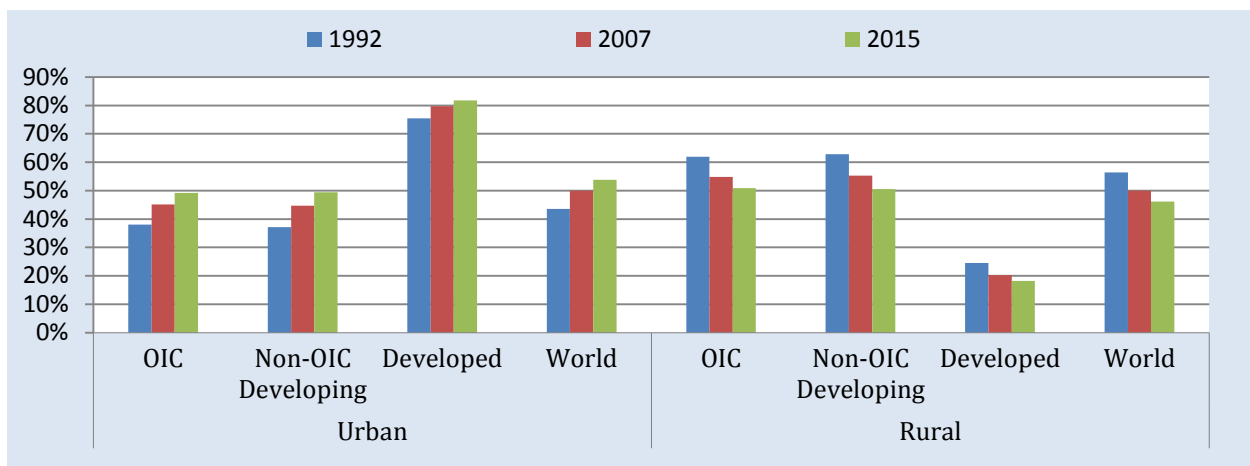
Only with some-correction mechanisms and policies, it is possible to balance family and work requirements and roles, especially for women given their motherhood duties, and to cope with the negative effects of industrialization and employment on family values and institution of marriage in OIC countries. Some developed countries had started to implement flexible working hour system, tele-working, prolonged parental and maternal leave schemes in order to preserve family values and strengthen the family union. All these measures constitute important policy options that can be used by OIC countries by adapting them into their local conditions. In particular, providing life-learning education programmes and training programmes for youth and adult population on family values, importance of family and marriage institution can help OIC countries to reduce adverse effects of industrialization and employment on the institution of family and marriage in the medium and long-term.

3.2.2 Urbanization and Housing

Globally, rapid industrialization went hand in hand with rapid urbanization, where cities have become attractive for employment, education, health and life-style services. In 1950, only 30 per cent of the world’s population was urban, and by 2050, 66 per cent of the world’s population is projected to be urban (UN, 2015a).

Following the global trend, OIC countries also witnessed a rapid urbanization over the past two decades. In 1992, rural population in OIC countries accounted for 62.0% of their total population, whereas by 2015, this number went down to 50.90% on average (World Bank, WDI 2016). Non-OIC developing countries also recorded a decline, where the share of rural population decreased from 62.8% to 50.6% in the same period. The OIC countries, as a group, still has the highest share of population living in rural areas when compared with other country groups, but the positive trend seen in the OIC group in terms of the pace of urbanization between 1992 and 2015 is remarkable.

Figure 3.14: Share of Urban and Rural Population in Total Population (%)



Source: World Bank, WDI

Another fact in terms of urbanization seen in OIC countries is the declining share of population living in slums in urban areas. According to SESRIC (2016a), during the 1990-2014, 16 OIC countries achieved substantial reductions in the proportion of slum dwellers in urban areas.

Overall, the basic indicators on urbanization and housing on OIC countries reveal two facts: a) there is a positive trend seen in urbanization thanks to population moving from rural to urban areas; b) still millions of people in cities of OIC countries have to live in slums under poor living conditions. The trends seen in urbanization and housing have several implications on family values and institution of marriage in OIC countries. First of all, migrated families from urban to rural areas (usually for economic reasons) need to find an affordable housing option. In cities, affordable housing usually implies a small house size with limited number of rooms for family members. The size of a house and the household size (i.e. the average size of a family) are interrelated. It is therefore in cities families tend to stay as an elementary family rather than to live in an extended family structure.

Second, in urban areas as more members of the family need to be active in labour markets, family members could find limited time and opportunities to spend together. This put limits especially on the time spent for the education of children by parents. Therefore policy-makers need to develop some measures to preserve family values and ensure the transmission of these important values from one generation to other.

A first policy option would be to increase awareness of families on the importance of time spent together and educate them how to use this precious time in the best way. A second policy option would include allowing for alternative and flexible working systems (i.e. part-time working, tele-working, flexible working hours) with a view to generate more opportunities for children and parents to convene at home.

Third, as still millions of people in urban areas of OIC countries need to live in slum areas where poverty, poor infrastructure and different forms of violence are common, specific targeted policies need to be developed for families living in such areas with a view to safeguarding family values, reducing violence and improving living conditions. These specific targeted policies may range from lending micro-credits to females in slum areas in order to help them to generate income to building up public family centres in these areas with a view to meet social and physiological support needs of families in a professional way.

3.2.3 Poverty and Hunger

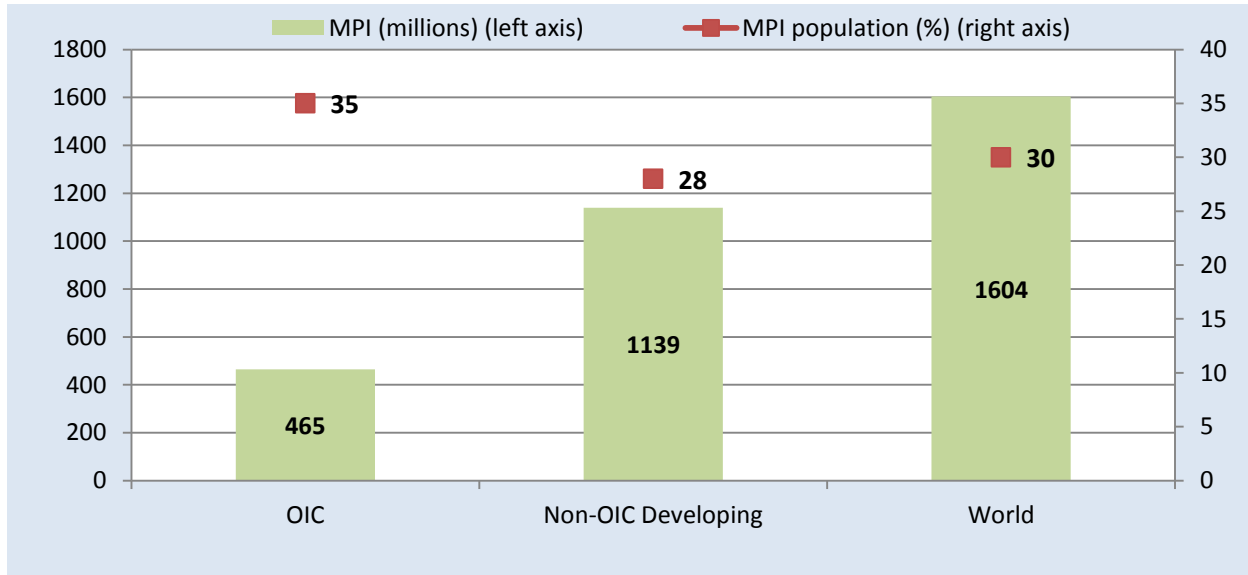
Poverty is a complicated phenomenon that goes beyond the monetary terms. It arises not only when people have inadequate income, but also when they lack key capabilities or education, have poor health or insecurity, or when they experience the absence of rights. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seeks to capture these wider deprivations.

The MPI uses 10 indicators to measure poverty in three dimensions: education, health and living standards. If someone is deprived in a third or more of ten (weighted) indicators, the global index identifies them as 'MPI poor', and the extent – or intensity – of their poverty is measured by the number of deprivations they are experiencing (Alkire et al., 2014, SESRIC, 2015).

According to the MPI dataset for the year 2014, 30% of world's total population are multidimensional poor. In OIC countries, this number goes up to 35% as shown in Figure 2.7, importantly, this number accounts for 29% of the world total multidimensional poor.

A closer look reveals that the majority of multidimensional poor in OIC countries are living in Sub-Saharan Africa, corresponding to 46% of OIC total multidimensional poor, and South Asia, hosting 37% of the OIC total (SESRIC, 2015).

Figure 3.15: Multidimensional Poverty



Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on OPHI, 2014

Among these poor, 38% (177 million) are lacking access to improved living conditions, 34% (159 million) do not have access to basic health services and 28% (129 million) are deprived of basic education and schooling (Ibid)

Hunger, as an extreme case of poverty, is another serious challenge faced by the poor in OIC. In fact, in 6 OIC countries an increase in hunger has been observed, with the sharpest increase recorded in Djibouti (13.8 %), followed by Yemen (10.3 %), Libya (1.3 %), Sudan (1.2 %), Comoros (0.7 %) and Somalia (0.2 %); majority of which are conflict affected countries. (World Bank WDI 2016)

Poverty and hunger are not only affecting individuals but also families and societies to a large extent. Living in families consisting of members who are not capable of meeting their basic needs such as sanitation, health, and nutrition, an individual's overall welfare (including mental and physical health) may be affected negatively. It is therefore in societies with significant incidence of poverty and hunger it is not easy to expect strong and healthy family structures as families' main priority is to survive rather than safeguarding their family values.

On the other hand, dissolving families or losing family stability have negative effects on poverty as the family unit can play some important role to reduce some negative consequences of poverty. DeRose et al. (2014) showed that in Asia, Central/South America and the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa, children raised by mothers who have experienced union instability are more likely to have health problems, especially diarrhea, and to die than children raised by a mother who has remained in her first union since before their birth. The results of the study further revealed that family instability may compromise parents' ability to provide the kind of consistent and attentive care that is most likely to foster good

health in children. To this end, OIC countries need to explore ways to stabilize the family structure, ensure family union, and safeguard family values where members of families are less affected from the negative consequences of poverty and hunger, and children can get a good care.

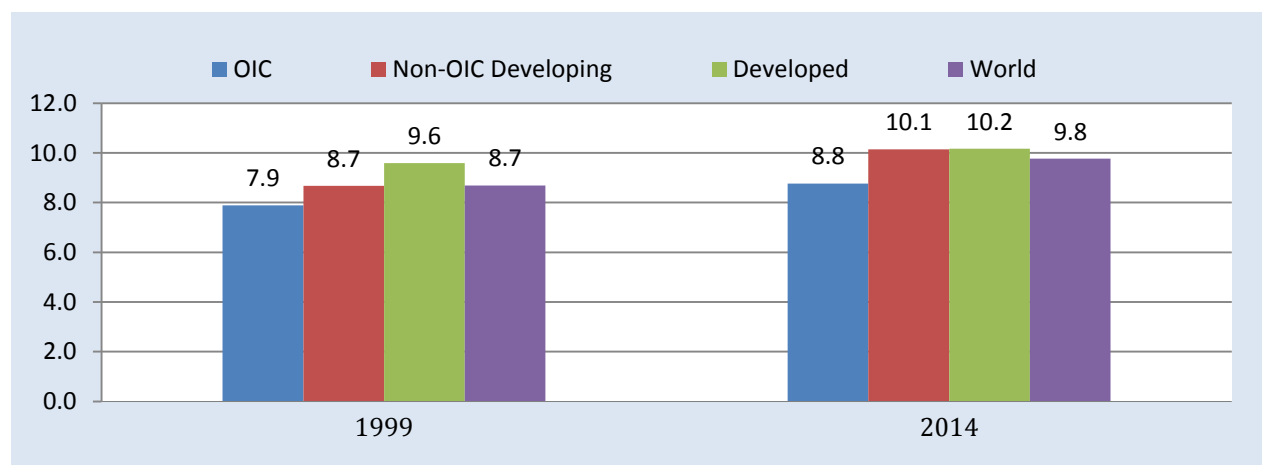
As indicated by various poverty indicators, poverty remains in many OIC countries as an important challenge to be addressed. Despite achieving to reduce number of poor people in absolute terms in some parts of the OIC region, when poverty is measured as a share of population, a positive trend of poverty rates became evident in a number of OIC countries from Sub-Saharan Africa to South Asia. In this regard, OIC countries need to put more efforts to eradicate poverty as it is not only a threat for their citizens' well-being but also poses a risk for the family values and formation. Reviewing poverty eradication policies from the lens of family values and orientation may bear some positive results both on poverty and family values. Implementation of poverty eradication policies in OIC countries by taking local family values and structures into account may strengthen the family union and improve the well-being of family members at the same time.

3.2.4 Educational Attainment

In many parts of the world, public authorities have been paying a special attention to education in order to improve basic education indicators such as enrolment rates and the years of schooling.

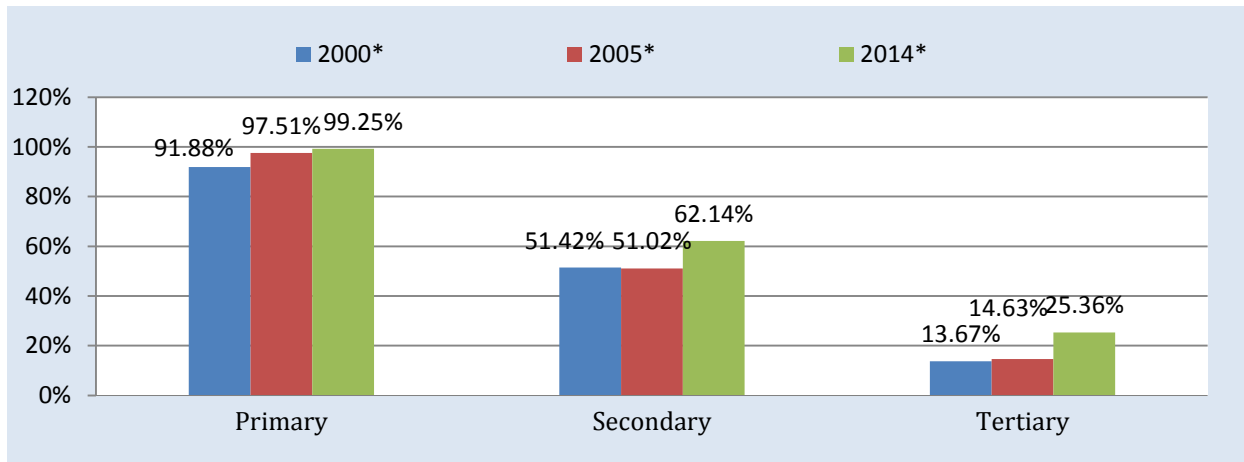
Similarly, in OIC countries the duration of compulsory education increased from 7.9 years in 1999 to 8.8 years in 2014 (Figure 3.16).

Figure 3.16: Duration of Compulsory Education (years)



Source: World Bank, WDI

Furthermore, the average gross rates for primary school enrolment (i.e., GERs) increased from 91.9% in 2000 to as high as 99.3% in 2014 (Figure 3.17). Similarly, average OIC secondary school GER increased from 51.4% in 2000 to 62.1% in 2014 and the average tertiary school GER of OIC countries went up from 13.7% to 25.4% in this period (Figure 3.17).

Figure 3.17: Average Increase in School Enrolment Levels in OIC

Source: Prepared by SESRIC staff (SESRIC; UNESCO; World Bank WDI, and World Bank Education Statistics) *Or latest year

All these positive developments seen in education indicators of OIC countries have affected the landscape of family formation and marriage.

With increased participation into education especially into tertiary schools, the average age of first marriage climbed up as people needed to stay as students (without labour income) for a longer period of time. On the other hand, as both male and female population go up in the education ladder, their expectations from life in terms of comfort, income and joy have evolved, and therefore taking a decision on marriage have become more difficult for them when compared with persons with a relatively lower education (Retherford et al., 2001).

Literature showed that there is a higher probability of marital dissolution (separation and divorce) as the average age of marriage goes up (Bitter, 1986). In this context, increasing average age at first marriage constitutes an important risk for family union and values, and therefore need to be addressed by policy-makers in OIC countries.

Yet, increased years of education and getting more information and knowledge on sciences as well as on life also have positive effects on family and marital union. In particular, couples with more education tend to respect basic rights in family relations. In families composed of well-educated couples, violence in family is usually observed to a lower extent (Rath et al., 1989). In terms of child-bearing, well-educated couples tend to behave more carefully towards their children and spend more “precious” time with their kids that are critical factors for safeguarding family values.

Overall, positive trends seen in schooling and education indicators in OIC countries have some important implications for policy-makers from the perspective of family values and the institution of marriage. If nothing is done, with increasing years of schooling and education levels, it is likely to see increased average age at first marriage, which has a set of consequences on fertility rates, number of children, and average duration of a marriage. To this end, policy-makers in OIC countries need to develop and implement specific education programmes and courses in order to teach youth population on the importance of family values, family formation and transferring these values to next generations.

With increased education levels of girls, labour force participation rates of female population went up in OIC countries, on average, which is a recent phenomenon in several OIC countries. As female population become more active in the labour markets thanks to education, it translates into a reduced time to fulfil their motherhood role within the family institution, which can never be compensated by a kindergarten, nanny or teacher. To this end, policy-makers in OIC countries need to consider adopting alternative working models such as flexible working hours, tele-working in order to generate more time for working mothers. It is also of importance to revise existing parental leave rights with a view to prolonging their duration and increasing their flexibility as seen in many developed countries to safeguard family values and strengthen the family institution.

3.2.5 Migration

International migration represents cross-border movement of people from one country to another as a result of various factors, such as security concerns, education, family union, and economic opportunities. As seen in Table 2.2, developing countries, both non-OIC countries and OIC members, are in a deficit position in terms of net migration between 1997 and 2012.

Table 3.1: Net Migration, 1997-2012

	1997	2002	2007	2012
OIC Countries	-7559489	-4826232	-4267457	-5727459
Non-OIC Developing Countries	-6331918	-12721339	-12562373	-7664030
Developed Countries	14028559	17299293	16830954	13341767

Source: World Bank, WDI, Note: Net migration is the net total of migrants during the period, that is, the total number of immigrants less the annual number of emigrants, including both citizens and noncitizens

In the OIC group, the average net migration figure decreased from -7.5 million in 1997 to -5.7 million 2012. These stock figures on cross border migration figures reveal that globally there is a net flow of people mostly from developing countries including OIC countries to developed countries (Table 3.1)

The flow of people across borders has several impacts on national economies and thus on families, both positive, such as generating additional income for source countries, and negative, such as causing a net loss of workers challenging, therefore, economic production and well-being.

Migration, however, affects and challenges family formation and values and the institution of marriage in direct ways as well.

First of all, migration usually poses a risk for family union. In many cases some members of the family need to stay either temporarily or permanently in the country of origin for some reason (economic, health, education etc.). This means that migration first and foremost hits the family union where the time to live together with all family members may go down significantly and this may affect the happiness of members of the family.

Second, unplanned or unwanted changes in time to spend with father or mother (i.e. parents) may reduce the quality and scope of parental education of kids, which is critical for self-development of individuals (Antman, 2013).

Third, unmarried persons who migrate to another country may need to postpone decision of marriage to adopt new living environment, increase personal financial savings and understand local dynamics. It is therefore the average age for marriage as well as timing for childbearing tends to go up among immigrants (Carlson, 1985).

All these above listed factors require OIC countries to develop specific policies in order to address challenges of emigrants as well as immigrants from the perspective of family values and marriage. These policies may include developing education and training programmes for parents who are about to emigrate with a view to improving their skills on maintaining a healthy relation with their children and spouse after migration takes place. Education and training programmes need to be offered for migrant families in order to equip them with information and knowledge about local culture, family structure and values to ease their adoption to the new environment. In order to meet education and training needs of immigrant families living abroad, national public institutions of source countries can launch and operate education and training centres in cities where the number of their citizens reach some certain threshold. These centres can provide important services to preserve family values of migrant families and strengthen the family institution even they are far from their home countries.

As the smallest unit of a society, the family institution in OIC countries has been naturally affected from economic changes. This section of the Report looked at and elaborated in details how the family institution and values have been affected from industrialization and employment, urbanization and housing, poverty and hunger, educational attainment, and migration in OIC countries by assessing the relevant datasets and benefiting from the existing literature. The section also listed some specific policy recommendations for policy-makers in order to strengthen family institution and enhance family formation in OIC countries.

INFO BOX 2: Food For Thought: How does Conflict and Forced Migration Affect Families?

Majority of the OIC countries are currently part of an ongoing conflict at varying intensity. According to the Conflict Barometer 2012, more than 40 OIC member countries were conflict affected. More than 430 million people were affected in OIC countries from 2,112 disasters (mainly due to floods, epidemics, earthquakes and storms) recorded during 1990-2012 and almost 650,000 people lost their lives due to these disasters. Urbanization, migration, and changes to environmental and socio-economic conditions will potentially heighten underlying exposure and vulnerability to complex emergencies.

Against this backdrop, not only individuals but the smallest unit of a society the “family” institution has been affected by increasing intensity of conflicts and disasters. Whether they are called “internally displaced people” (IDP) or “refugees”, their needs to maintain a healthy family life and preserve their family values are not the same as local residents. As these people are forced to live in camps or poor shelters due to external factors (i.e. factors not stemming from the family), it is not easy for any member of the family to sustain a healthy and balanced family life where members of the family are usually not mentally and physically strong enough to cope with challenges of the daily life. It is therefore extremely important for OIC countries to develop effective policies to address needs of people and families affected from both man-made and natural crises by taking their family structures and values into account. OIC countries also need to exert more efforts to raise awareness on status of crisis affected families in hot-spots and refugee hosting countries like Jordan, Iraq and Turkey.

All these variety of needs of refugee families in different parts of the OIC region needs to be addressed in an effective manner as these families struggle to survive and work hard to preserve their family values as much as possible under tough conditions. To this end, it is important start working to develop a strategic roadmap document in order to effectively address challenges of crisis-affected families and improve their conditions in OIC countries from violent extremism to marriage under guidance of the OIC General Secretariat with the active involvement of OIC countries. It would be critical to cooperate and work in close cooperation with the regional and international organizations during the preparation and implementation of the roadmap document in order to benefit from other regional and international best-practices in this domain.

3.3 Socio-cultural Changes: Cultural Dynamics, Family and Marriage

Family and marital values are also shaped and influenced by wider cultural trends, which translate into specific values, attitudes, or norms which people adopt in making particular decisions or taking courses of action, such as family formation or transition to marriage. While the new millennium has presented societies, including OIC societies, with a wide range of new cultural trends, the report primarily focuses on rapidly globalizing new individual-oriented lifestyles and new communication technologies that perpetuate this new lifestyle. Within this framework, it pays a particular attention to the value transformation of Generation Y; the generation that is most affected by globalizing cultural trends and communication technologies. Generation Y, furthermore, is the main marriage-eligible population who will be future parents and spouses; it, therefore, will be shaping the future of family life and spousal relations in OIC societies.

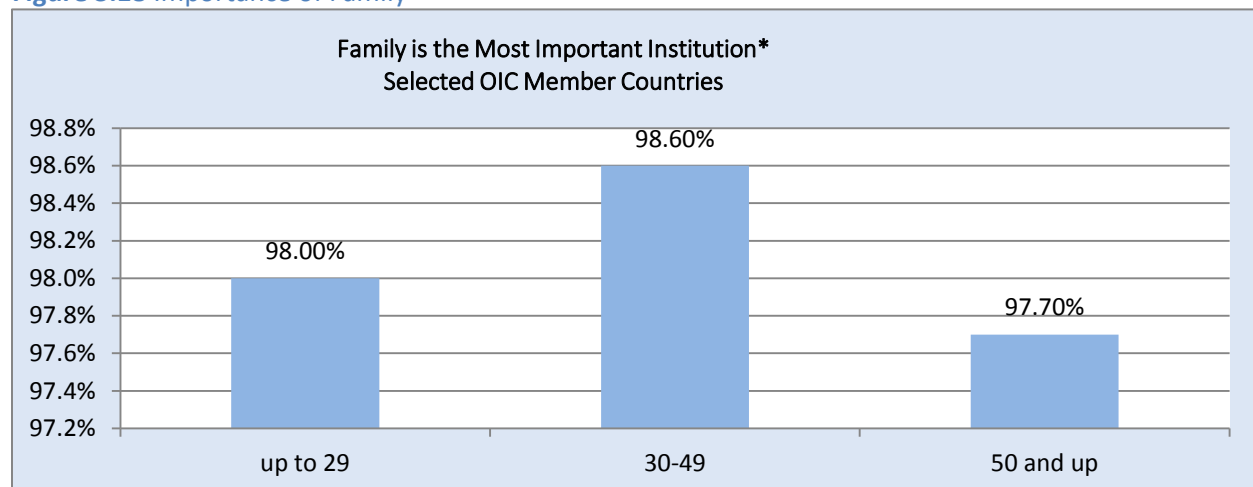
In addition to the emerging cultural trends and values, certain persistent traditional practices, beliefs, and values also undermine the strength and resilience of and marital union in OIC member countries. This sub-section also provides a brief review of such persistence harmful traditional practice as child marriage, high-cost dowry, female genital cutting and early pregnancy.

3.3.1 Main Drivers of Cultural Change: Globalization and New Lifestyles

Historically, the OIC country group has been marked by a communitarian and a family-oriented culture. Family constitutes the basic unit of community, and family interests and needs are given priority and a higher moral value than mere self-interest. This cultural environment also honours close intergenerational relations and support, where ‘parents are responsible of children well into their adult lives, and children reciprocate by taking responsibility for the care of the their ageing parents’ (Rashad et al. 2005)

The importance given to family in the OIC group, rooted deeply in cultural and Islamic heritage, stands intact in contemporary society as well. In fact, as Figure (3.18) demonstrates, in selected OIC countries, people, across gender and age groups consider family as the most important institution.

Figure 3.18 Importance of Family



Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on WVS 2010-2012 Wave on country available data (*Very important and Important combined)

While this finding is inspiring, a number of emerging trends signal the coming of potentially drastic challenges to family-centered values in the OIC countries. Earlier in this section, the report identified such key demographic and economic changes. For example, the overall trend towards an ageing population in the OIC will put extra burden on families already dealing with increased cost of living and child-rearing, especially in urban settings (Hussein & Ismail 2016). This demographic change in itself is substantial enough to stir a severe clash between economic realities and the highly esteemed value that children should provide for and take care of elderly family members. In other words, this demographic trend is opening up a gap between what people value and their ability to act upon or realize those values.

Challenges to family values and union are not only of economic or demographic type, but include cultural factors as well. In the modern society, one of the main drivers of value transformation has been globalization; a mass process through which '...capital, goods and services, technology, information, and various cultural items flow freely beyond national boundaries' (De Silva 2003). Although flow of items is cross-cultural, globalization has so far been dominantly marked by the spread of Western values to the rest of the world; OIC group has not remained untouched by globalizing and Westernizing processes either.

Through triggering change, globalization ushers in new opportunities, but it also signals new threats. One notable challenge generated by globalization in regards to family values has been the rise and spread of Western lifestyles marked by individualism, consumerism, and materialism. This new urban individualist lifestyle promotes higher demands for individual development and gives priority to fulfilment of individual needs and desires over family and community.

These new demands are not limited to education, leisure, work space, and training. They also reshape how individuals view family and marital union (Cliquet 2003). In fact, atomistic individualism views family (and marital union) to be oppositional to the well-being and freedoms of individual, promoting the idea that family formation delays and limits individual development, achievement, and happiness. This individual-oriented lifestyle, in other words, presumes a clash between individual and family, creating a false belief that one has to self-sacrifice to form a family, or sacrifice desires for family formation to attain individual goals and needs (Yankelovich 1994).

The rising interest on the self through the prism of individualism has direct and concrete impacts on family formation and marital union. To begin with, it heightens the hesitation to start an enduring relationship (Cliquet 2003). Similarly, an increased emphasis on the self and material things divert people from family building or extending goals, leading not only to smaller families but to delays in child rearing and family formation (Ibid). In sum, values promoted by this new global urban life style strongly compete with traditional family values and patterns, in particular for having children.

Across the world, including the OIC group, the advances in communication technologies as well as easier and cheaper travel have made the spread of new lifestyles much easier and faster. In fact, in contemporary societies, media plays a prominent role in socialization of adolescents and marriage-eligible young adults (El-Haddad 2003). Recent studies indicate that adolescents are more strongly influenced by the media than their families on the development of their sexual behaviours, knowledge and attitudes (Yamazhan T., et al. 2007)

In particular, soap operas broadcasted in satellite channels and social media and internet have become main entry gates into this new global urban lifestyle and further reinforced the portrayal of family and individual as two opposites. While TV series rarely directly address reproductive issues, they draw particular images of men and women, gender roles, and expectations as well as singlehood and family life (Yigit 2013). Typically, singlehood is promoted as a way to freedom and self-actualization and it provides men and women with fancy, fun, and wealthy and career-oriented lifestyles, while family is depicted as a source of conflict, oppressive tradition, and restrictive obligations. These media-driven images ‘reinforce a cultural message that is conveyed as well by many Hollywood films...: people who are wealthy, sophisticated, free, and self-fulfilled are those people who...do not let their parental roles dominate their exciting lives’(Wilcox and Cavallé 2011, 12).

Overall, the rise and global spread of individualism has been challenging and competing against family values and has created the false separation of ‘family versus individual’. To combat this divide, policies should aim at promoting alternative narratives and images, those that can endorse family life and marital union as something that is not in conflict with individual development, but on the contrary, as something that would complement and facilitate individual progress, quality of life, and happiness. Such cultural policies focused on creating new images and narratives should be accompanied by economic and social security policies that would encourage marital union and family formation through a variety of channels from tax benefits to child care support (for details on government policies, see Section 4)

Yet, for a deeper understanding of how globalizing processes have affected OIC group’s value transformation, an understanding which would in turn lead to more precise and effective policies, the report examines cultural orientations of the new generation. Changes in society, whether economic or cultural, do not affect all age groups uniformly; instead, each new generation is shaped by the economic events that it experiences (Shediak et al. 2013). It is the so-called Y-Generation who has been born into in the current globalized and digitalized era. By examining what cultural attitudes this new generation holds in regards to family, policymakers can gain valuable insights into the future of family values and union in the OIC group.

3.3.2 Understanding Generation-Y: The Need to Balance Global Influences with Family Values

Generation Y (Gen Y), or the Millennials, is the group of people born between 1981 and 2000 (Twenge 2006). Most data and studies on Y-Generation come from work force and consumer surveys; this is not startling given that by 2025, Gen-Y will make up 75 per cent of all workers in the Middle East (Al-Masri 2015), and currently Millennials comprise 40 per cent of MENA region (PRI 2014). Yet, Millennials are not only a significant consumer and workforce segment, they also makeup a large chunk of marriage-eligible population in OIC group and they will be the parents of the next generation; as such Millennials will be shaping future structure of family, parenting, and spousal relations.

There is yet to develop comparative surveys and studies on Gen Y’s family values; yet, it is possible to draw Gen-Y’s family orientations from its general cultural attitudes and worldview studied widely. Gen-Y is unlike preceding generations. They have been most affected by the globalization and digitization trends of the past decade. Moreover, while each country’s Gen-Y is different, due of globalization, social media, the exporting of Western culture, Gen-Y’s worldwide is more similar to one another than any older generations (Shediak et al. 2013).

General cultural attitudes of Gen- Y are telling of what is taking place currently overall in OIC group's cultural landscape: a competition between family oriented and local values and the globalized lifestyles informed by Western culture, prioritizing individual needs.

More specifically, Gen-Y is identified with individualism, materialism, low levels of personal trust, desire for self-expression and independence, and is remarkably career-oriented and ambitious.

Individualism: Studies on Gen-Y agree that this generation is the most self-oriented of all. Indeed, Gen-Y has been dubbed 'Me-Generation' (Twenge 2006) as well as 'Entitled Generation' (Altınbasak-Farina and Guleryuz-Turkel 2015). Gen-Y capitalizes more focus on the self and less focus on the group, society, and community, and this individualism gets reflected in personality traits and attitudes (Ibid). Empirical studies in the Arab Region as well demonstrate a gradual rise in "individualism," mostly led by the younger generation promoting the right to pursue one's goals, to be more self-expressive, and to value independence and self-reliance (Shediac et al. 2013).

Consumerism and Extravagance: This cohort is characterized by an accumulated, materialistic, and consumer culture that is primarily a result of technological innovation (Hanzaee and Aghasibeig, 2010). It desires distinctive brands with traits of their own that will serve as a form of self-expression (Gupta et al., 2010). A MENA survey has revealed that fashion and clothing is the main item on which Arab youth spend their disposable income (ASDA'A 2008). Another study that focused on generational differences in the Arab region also found that Gen-Y associates itself more with "adventure" and "extravagance" than the older two generations (Shediac et al. 2013).

Low Interpersonal Trust: Gen-Y is also informed by low levels of interpersonal trust as well as only conditional loyalty to work space and brands (PRI 2014)

Independence and Self-expression: Another survey on Millennials in the MENA shows that this new generation does not respect hierarchy; it is in a quest for self-expression and a strong self-identity; and the Gen-Y wants to speak its minds. The survey also shows that 78% of MENA youth highly value independence (Bayt.com 2014).

Career-Oriented at the expense of Family Life: Gen-Y is distinguished with its strong career-orientation. In fact, Millennials in the MENA survey found that among the young adults, 78% would be willing to sacrifice their personal life in order to further their career, 74% would move to another country to make for a better salary and perks, 61% would work longer hours, and 57% would live away from their family (Ibid).

These values that reflect globalizing influences on Gen-Y, however, are also accompanied by another set of values that turn the Gen-Y back towards family and community. The Millennials:

Endorse the institution of marriage as the most appropriate form of romantic union and believe that children need both a mother and father (Wilcox and Cavalle 2011), and care about being good parents (Altınbasak-Farina and Guleryuz-Turkel 2015)

Think religion is important. In A PRI survey (2014) 68 per cent of the Middle Eastern youth say that religion is part of their personal identity (compared to just 16 per cent in the West).

Think family and tradition should be preserved and safeguarded. In the same PRI survey, with 85 per cent of Arab youth agreed that it is important to preserve traditional values for the future (PRI 2014)

Desire for a strong work-family balance (Ibid) is concerned about gender equality and the role and place of women in society. Hence, they are in general marked by greater gender egalitarianism (Ibid).

Think family is the main space to find love and security (Altınbasak-Farina and Guleryuz-Turkel 2015).

Are in a quest for parental confirmation. Table 3.2 shows that Gen-Y attributes remarkable value to making their parents proud.

Table 3.2: One of My Main Goals in Life is to Make My Parents Proud**

Lebanon	79.40%	Bahrain	93.20%	Yemen	96.90%	Nigeria	98.30%
Tunisia	79.40%	Azerbaijan	94.30%	Kyrgyzstan	98.00%	Malaysia	98.60%
Palestine	82.10%	Kazakhstan	95.20%	Qatar	98.00%	Turkey	98.60%
Kuwait	89.30%	Morocco	95.20%	Iraq	98.20%	Egypt	99.10%
Pakistan	89.30%	Algeria	95.40%	Jordan	98.30%	Uzbekistan	99.10%

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on WVS 2010-2012 Wave on country available data (**very important and important combined)

All in all, there is a seeming clash pulling the youth in two opposite directions: one towards commitment to the self and self interest and other towards partnership, family and community. For example, while Millennials firmly desire to have a work-family balance, they are, at the same time, willing to live away from their family, work for longer hours, and sacrifice their personal life for the sake of career achievements and higher salaries. While they are keen on expressing their self-identity through consumerism and brands, have low interpersonal trust and short attention-span requiring constant stimulation and entertainment, they also want to get married and start families, which would require them to share material resources and open up for enduring and trust-based relationships. Similarly, they are keen on self-expression and independence, but they also think that traditional values should be safeguarded.

This seeming clash demonstrates that substantial cultural change and value transformation are taking place in OIC group, especially among the youth. The youth is not fully alienated from the common cultural heritage and traditional values; however they are at the same time being pulled towards less social cohesion. What determines the future of family in OIC group is whether this generation will be able to balance out these conflicting values. This suggests to policymakers that the youth will need support from a variety of institutions to strike such a balance.

Importantly, the youth's struggle to hold on to family and communal values is further strained by an economic and political environment struck by instability. As the number of Millennials entering the workforce is increasing, so is unemployment. In fact, unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa region is largely a youth phenomenon. (Al-Masri 2015). High unemployment rates among youth are accompanied by insecurity and political unrest, all further eroding social cohesion and communal values. In trying to manage impacts of economic and political hardships, policymakers should pay special attention to needs of the youth.

Finally, policies should also consider targeted intergenerational relationship building. It is no wonder that Gen-Y experiences the highest generational gap as a result of the speed of globalization, social media and networking, and spread of technical knowledge; consequently, making OIC societies vulnerable to social rupture (Fargues 1997).

For example, Gen-Y capitalizes self-expression, self-identity, and speaking one’s mind. Yet when OIC country group is asked to pick five most important values that parents should teach to their children at home, the value self-expression (as well as imagination) did not make it to top five values, as shown in Table 3.3. On the contrary, value obedience is ranked as the third important value, revealing a gap between emerging values of the Gen-Y and wider values in OIC societies. Policies should address this gap with an eye to balance out values that relate to cohesion and to individual expression. Such a balance would require promoting intergenerational relations to foster mutual understanding between parents and the youth.

Table 3.3: Values Parents Should Teach Children at Home

Order	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Values	Tolerance	Religion	Obedience	Thrift	Determination	Unselfishness	Self-expression	Imagination

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on WVS 2010-2012 Wave (only data available countries)

3.3.3 Persistent Traditional Practices

It is not only emerging cultural trends associated with globalizing processes that threaten family values and marital union in OIC country group. Another such challenge is directed by harmful traditional practices that persist even in the face of economic development and political regulations.

Harmful social practices result from social conventions and social norms and when practiced, individuals and families acquire social status and respect (Mackie & LeJeune, 2009). These practices emanate from the deeply entrenched discriminatory views and beliefs about the role and position of women in society. Traditional practices such as child marriage, early age pregnancy and high- cost dowry tend to reduce women to sub-human assets belonging to men and negatively affect the family wellbeing. These practices take place in most of developing countries including OIC member states as part of traditional culture ignoring changes in social contexts. This section attempts to highlight some of the harmful traditional and cultural practices in OIC countries, which violate the rights of women and negatively affect the family well-being.

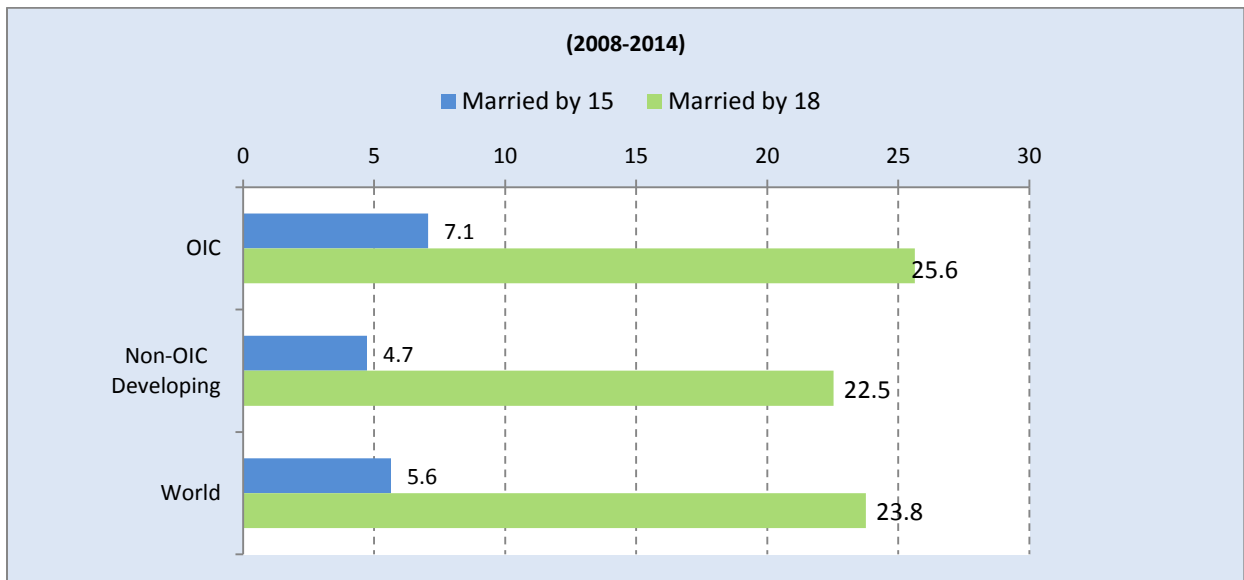
3.3.3.1 Child Marriage

The right to ‘free and full’ consent to a marriage is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – with the recognition that consent cannot be ‘free and full’ when one of the parties involved is not sufficiently mature to make an informed decision about a life partner (UNICEF, 2005, p. 1). However, in many parts of the world marriage before 18 (i.e. child marriage) is a reality. The literature suggests that poverty, protection of girls, family honour and the provision of stability during unstable social periods are some of the main driving factors behind child marriage (UNICEF, 2001). Although most countries have laws that regulate marriage, both in terms of the minimum age and consent, such laws usually do not

apply to traditional marriages. The UNICEF (2001) Report states that many girls and a smaller number of boys enter marriage without being able to exercise their right to choose their marriage partner. This is more often the case with younger and uneducated girls since assuming a wife's responsibilities usually leaves no room for schooling and almost certainly removes the girl from the educational process (UNICEF, 2001). This also results in early childbearing, which is identified as having higher health risk both for mother and child.

Figure 3.19 displays the prevalence of child marriage (both for marriages before 15 and 18 years) across country groups between 2008 and 2014. According to the figure, the OIC countries have the highest child marriage prevalence in both groups where 7.1% of all marriages are taking place before 15 years old and 25.6% of all marriages are being performed before 18 years old. The global average prevalence of marriages before 15 years old is 5.6% and for marriages before 18 years old the average is 23.8%. In non-OIC developing countries, child marriage is less common than the OIC group with averages of 4.7% and 22.5% for marriages before 15 and 18 years old, respectively.

Figure 3.19: Child Marriage (%)



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculation from UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

At the individual country level, the highest prevalence of child marriage (married by 15) in the OIC group is observed in Chad (29.0%) followed by Niger (28.0%). On the other side, both Qatar and Tunisia reported zero prevalence of child marriage (married by 15) between 2008 and 2014.¹⁹

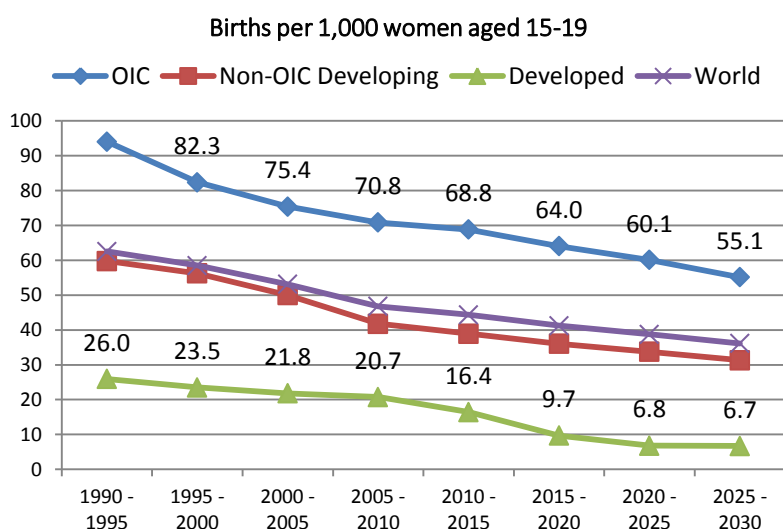
Overall, the figures suggest that child marriage in OIC member countries is a serious social problem for the health of women and infants as well as the well-being of family and society at large.

¹⁹ SESRIC Staff Calculation from UNICEF global databases, 2016, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

3.3.3.2 Early Pregnancy

In many parts of the developing world, especially in rural areas, girls marry shortly after puberty and are expected to start having children immediately. Although the situation has improved since the early 1980s, in many areas the majority of girls less than 20 years of age are already married and having children. Each year around 11% of total births worldwide is being delivered by teenage mothers (SESRIC, 2016c). Early pregnancy can have harmful consequences for both young mothers and their babies. Babies of teenage mothers tend to be born premature and have low body weight; such babies are more likely to die in the first year of life. The risk to the young mother's own health is also great. Poor health is common among indigent pregnant and lactating women (OHCHR,n.d.). Being a mother earlier before the age of 20 years has risks both for the health of infant and mother. Adolescents are more likely to experience complications during the pregnancy and delivery, mothers and babies both are therefore at a greater risk of mortality (SESRIC, 2013).

Figure 3.20: Adolescent Fertility Rate



Source: SESRIC Staff Calculation from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.

Figure 3.20 shows the global adolescent fertility rate (AFR), which shows the number of births per one thousand women aged between 15 to 19 years, across country groups. According to the figure, AFR has fallen in OIC countries in recent decades. Yet they remain, on average, higher than in non-OIC developing countries and considerably higher than in developed countries and the global average. The adolescent fertility rate in OIC countries will continue to be higher than 50 births per 1000 women ages 15-19 according to the future projections, while this rate

will be less than 10 births in developed countries.

It seems that young women in OIC members, are under high fertility pressure that prevents women to invest into their self-development and leads to both pre-birth and pro-birth health problems both for mothers and new-borns. Given this state of affairs, policy-makers in OIC member countries need to show further efforts to reduce fertility rates among adolescents that are aged between 15-19 years in order to have healthy mothers and children.

3.3.3.3 The High-Cost of Dowry

“Mahr” (dowry) is a practice in Islam as something that is paid by the man to his wife. However, in Islam dowry does not mean that the woman is a product to be sold, rather it is a symbol of honour and respect (Al-Minajjid, 2016). It is paid to the wife by the man to show that he has a serious desire to marry her and

is not simply entering into the marriage contract without any sense of responsibility and obligation or effort on his part (Islam's women, n.d.). As cited from Noble Quran:

“And give to the women (whom you marry) their Mahr (obligatory bridal-money given by the husband to his wife at the time of marriage) with a good heart” (al-Nisa' 4:4)

Nonetheless, in some OIC countries, this basic principle in Islam is implemented under the influence of cultural and traditional practices. In particular, high dowry demands are causing negative impacts for family well-beings in most of the OIC countries. For example, in Egypt in the late 1990s, average marriage cost around \$6000, where average per capita income was only 1490\$ (Singerman and Ibrahim 2001)

The steep costs of dowry lead many young men to refrain from marriage. In many cases the high cost of dowry is cited as a main contributor to the raise Urfi marriage. In other cases the high cost of dowry is forcing many to either opt for bank loans or postpone their plans till they save enough for the marriage. Yet, it is important to mention that reducing Mahr (Dowry) is Sunnah. As narrated by Ibn Hibbaan, classified as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh al-Jaami', 3300; The Prophet Mohammed said: “The best of marriage is that which is made easiest” (Al-Minajjid, 2016).

3.3.3.4 Urfi Marriage

Families are accepted as the smallest unit of a society. Marriage is the first step in the formation of a family union, which is the essential part of a healthy and well-functioning society. According to the UN definition marriage is “the act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted. The legality of the union is highly important. It may be established by civil, religious or other means as recognized by the laws of each country” (UN, 2001, para. 56). Nevertheless, undocumented (Urfi) marriages are increasingly popular in some OIC countries, because of the high cost of marriage forcing many young couples to wait several years. Literally, Urfi marriage is a "traditional" or "customary" marriage which does not need an official contract (Knell, 2010). This can be marked in practice as harmful to family well-being. Since, these types of marriage are not officially registered and are not financially binding to the husband. Urfi marriage can also have disastrous consequences for the wife because if the husband leaves her without granting her a divorce, she has no legal right to seek a divorce. In certain communities, Urfi marriage leads women to face “social dishonour due to the abandonment by their urfi husbands; children whose legal status within society is left unclear, or worse, unrecognized; and families who subsequently suffer from the social stigma of the failed or abandoned 'urfi marriage” (Shahrani, 2010).

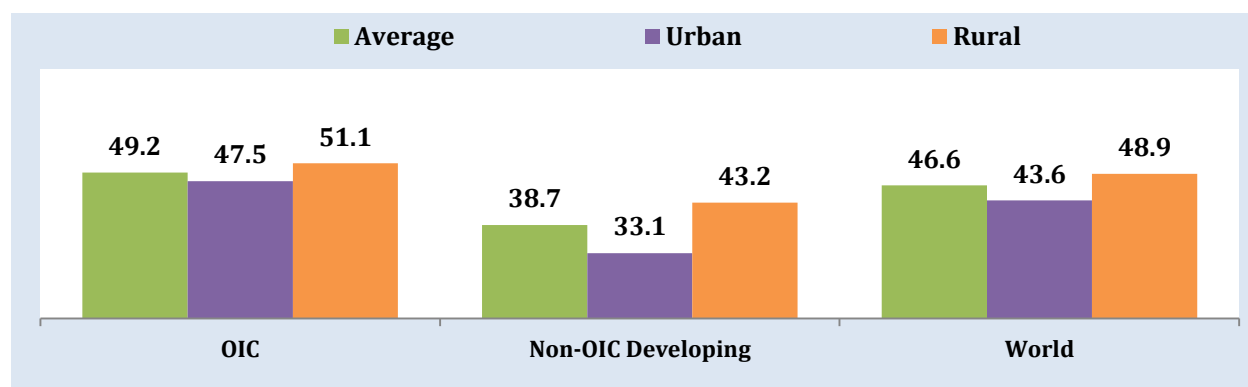
3.3.3.5 Violence and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

The term “female genital mutilation” (FGM, also called “female genital cutting” and “female genital mutilation/cutting”) refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (UN, 2010). Female genital mutilation has been reported to occur in all parts of the world. It is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women (WHO, 2013).

Female genital mutilation is always traumatic. Apart from excruciating pain, immediate complications can include shock, urine retention, ulceration of the genitals and injury to the adjacent tissue. Some of the other major outcomes resulting from FGM/C are septicaemia (blood poisoning), infertility and obstructed labour (UN, 2010). Moreover, haemorrhaging and infection can lead to death (UNICEF, 2005).

According to the UNICEF 2015 dataset, in 29 countries, of which 22 are OIC member countries, the prevalence of FGM/C is common. Figure 3.21 indicates the average of OIC member countries in 2015 as 49.2%. In OIC member countries prevalence of FGM/C differ across urban and rural areas. In urban areas the average goes down to 47.5% whereas in rural areas it goes up to 51.1%. The average of 7 non-OIC developing countries is measured as 38.7% in 2015 that is lower than the average of OIC. In this regard, OIC member countries need to intensify their efforts to fight against this traumatic form of violence that affects both physical and mental health of women during entire life span.

Figure 3.21: Female Genital Mutilation Prevalence among 15 to 49 Year old females (%), 2015



Source: UNICEF Global Databases 2015, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys.

4. Policymaking and its Effects on Family and Marriage

The Need for a True Alliance

So far, the report examined emerging demographic, social, economic, and technological trends that affect family and marital union in the OIC country group. This section, on the other hand, examines how the political context, namely government policies towards family, affects the well-being and future of family and marriage in OIC member states.

Family policy can be defined as government activities that are designed intentionally to support families, enhance family members' well-being, and strengthen family relationships (Bogenschneider, 2006). As such, family policy constitutes the main medium through which pressures put on family by outside stressors, ranging from changes in population structure to female labor participation can be dampened and managed.

Against this background, this section examines the state of 'explicit government policies' in OIC countries that have direct impacts on marital union and family values, unity and well-being (Bogenschneider, 2006; Robila, 2014). This examination will focus on the following family policy areas in a comparative perspective: government spending, family planning, violence absent women, and family-work balance.

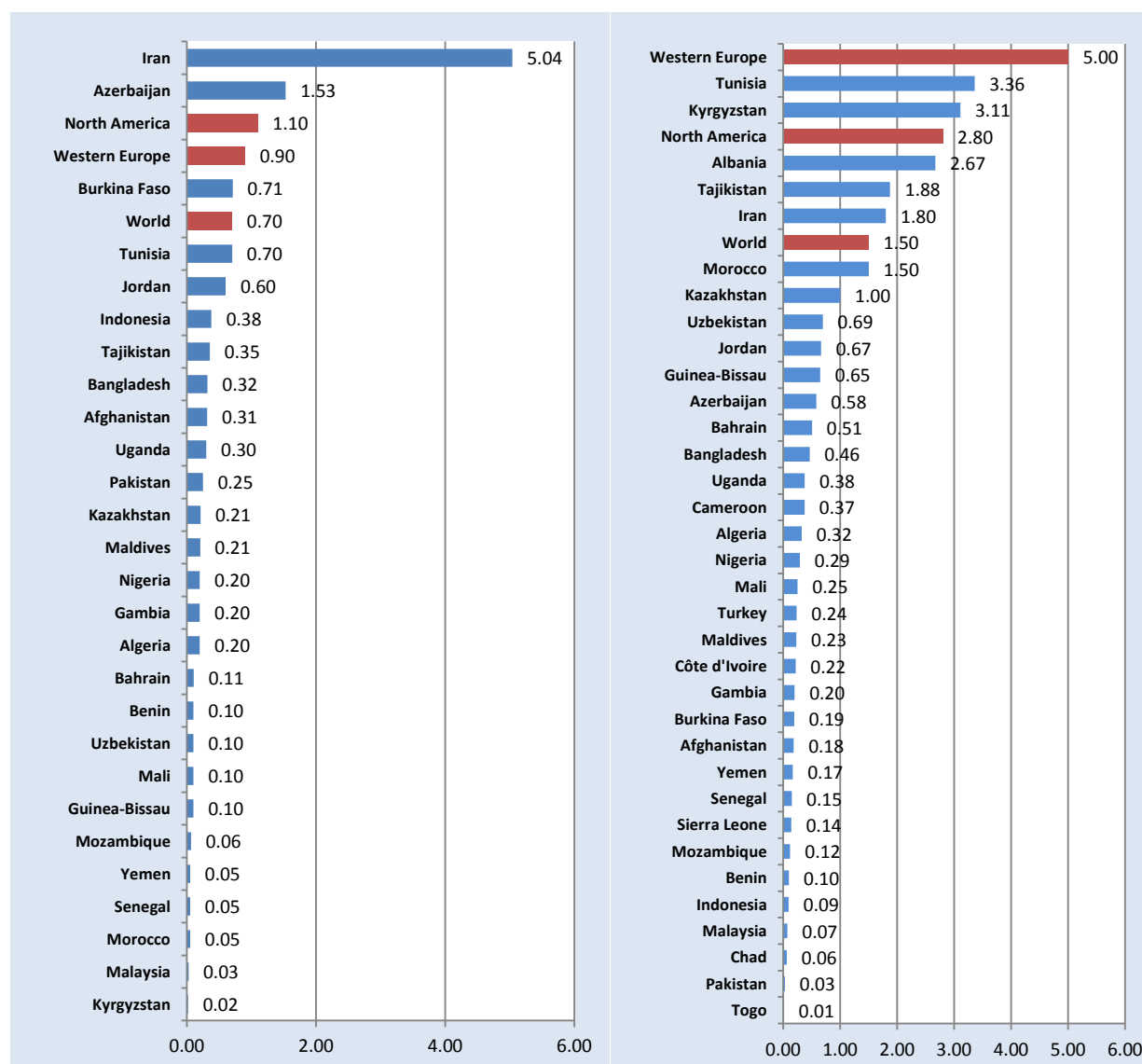
4.1 Government Spending

Governments who pay a higher attention to the well-being of families tend to support families through allocating social assistance and benefits. Unfortunately, the lack of standardized cross-country data on direct government spending on family support makes a thorough worldwide comparison difficult. However, proxy measures can be utilized to gain an insightful perspective on how much attention is paid to family by governments in the world and in OIC. For that end, the section employs the relative share of total spending on various age groups, each constituting a family member, such as children, the working-age and the elderly (ILO, 2014), as the main proxy tool.

Figure 4.1 (left) presents the relative share of general social assistance in GDP in the world (2009-2011) and in data available OIC countries. The figure shows that in majority of OIC countries the share of social assistance in GDP is lower than the world average as well as than that of North America and Western

Europe. Similarly, in majority of OIC countries, the share of social benefits in the total GDP(2009-2011) , is also lower than the world average as well as than that of North America and Western Europe, dropping in fact to drastically low levels of 0.03% and 0.01% in Pakistan and Togo, respectively (Figure 4.1, right)

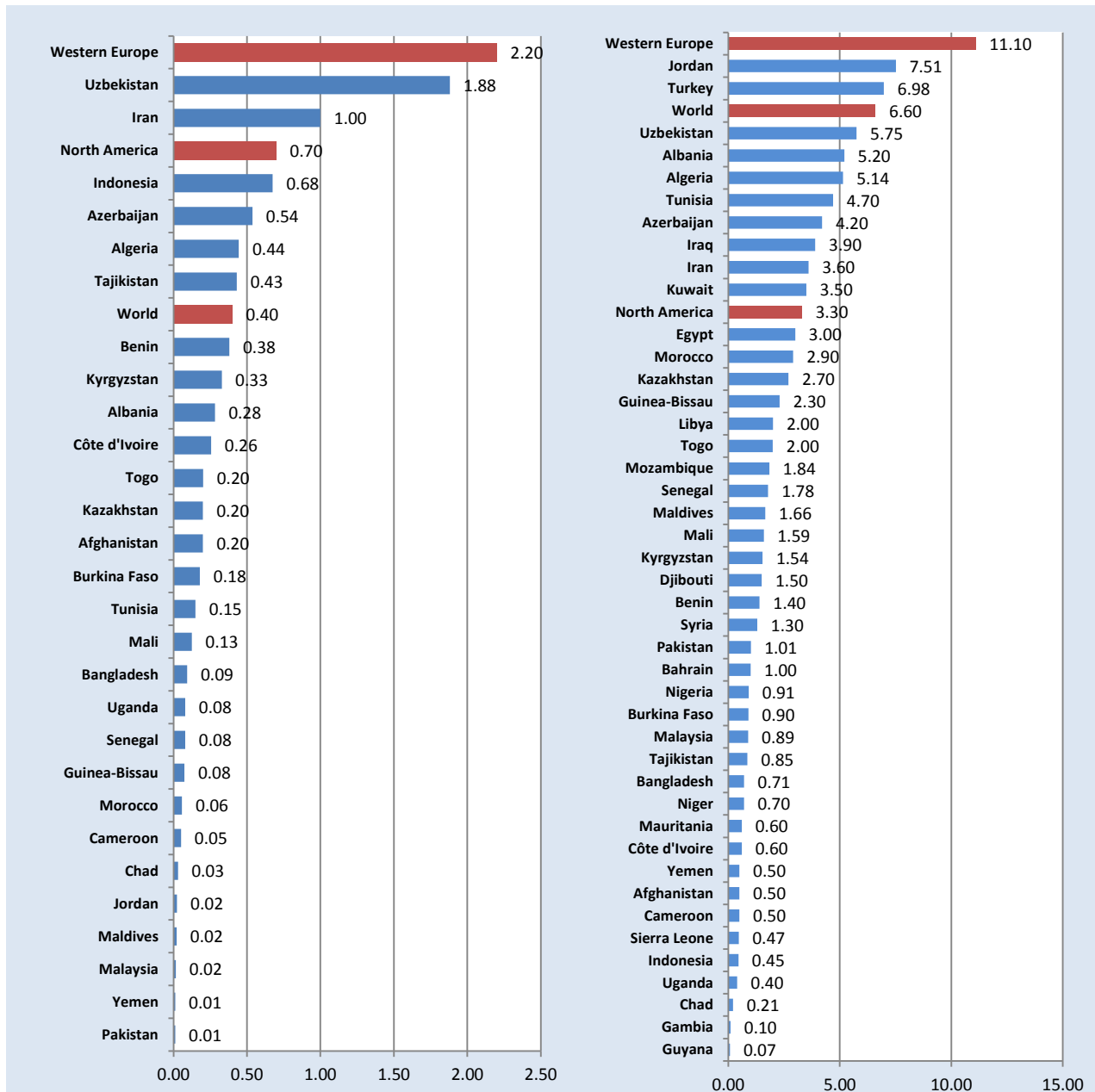
Figure 4.1: General Social Assistance (% of GDP) (left) and Social Benefits for Persons of Active Age (excluding general social assistance) (% of GDP) (right), 2009-2011



Source: ILO, World Social Protection Report 2014/2015

A look at government spending on separate age groups, most notably children and the elderly provides more in depth information about the scope of public policies and programs regarding members of families. Figure 4.2 (left) shows the share of public social protection expenditure for children (% of GDP) and reveals that while some OIC countries score higher than the world average, majority of OIC countries score lower than the world average as well as than that of North America and Western Europe.

Figure 4.2: Public Social Protection Expenditure for Children (% of GDP) (left) and Public Social Protection Expenditure for Older Persons (% of GDP) (right), 2009-2011



Source: ILO, World Social Protection Report 2014/2015

A similar picture emerges regarding public social protection expenditure for older persons; again, majority of OIC countries allocated a relatively smaller share when compared with the world average, except Jordan and Turkey.

The results obtained from the analysis of four indicators on expenditures on social assistance and benefits targeting all age groups of a family including children, working-age and older persons reveal that existing

shares prevailed in a significant number of OIC countries are lower when compared to the world averages. In this regard, a significant number of OIC countries need to increase their allocated budgets on such social assistance and social benefit programs in order to improve the well-being of families, strengthen family union, and enhance family formation. Without achieving a meaningful increase on the size of budgets allocated for social assistance and benefit programs, it is unlikely to successfully address a set of critical challenges and bottlenecks that pose threats on family values and institution in OIC countries. Although there is a need to scale up the relative size of social programs targeting families in majority of OIC countries, such an increase may not be sufficient to address existing problems and challenges faced by family members. To this end, the coverage and variety of social assistance and benefit programs need to be improved by taking local conditions and family structures into account in variety of OIC countries. For example, in OIC countries with a higher share of rural population mostly composed of extended family structures, social assistance and benefit programs need to be effectively designed to address specific needs and demands of such families. On the other hand, in OIC countries with relatively higher share of old-age population that are concentrated in urban areas, social assistance and benefit programs for families need to take these factors into consideration carefully.

4.2 Family Planning

Family planning is usually achieved by means of artificial contraception or voluntary sterilization. According to the WHO, family planning contributes to family and marital wellbeing in various substantial ways. It allows people to attain their desired number of children and determine the spacing of pregnancies, it prevents risky pregnancy hence reduce deaths of mothers and children; it helps to prevent of the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections overall family planning helps couples to maintain a balanced family life (WHO, 2016).

In this context, family planning support policies and mechanisms constitute an essential part of family policies in OIC countries as in other parts of the world.

The prevalence of family planning measures almost doubled in the world between 1970 (by 36%) and 2015 (by 64%) (UN, 2015b). However, an estimated 225 million women in the developing world including OIC countries would like to delay or stop childbearing, but are not using any method of contraception. More efforts therefore need to be exerted in order to fill this gap in the developing countries including the OIC region.

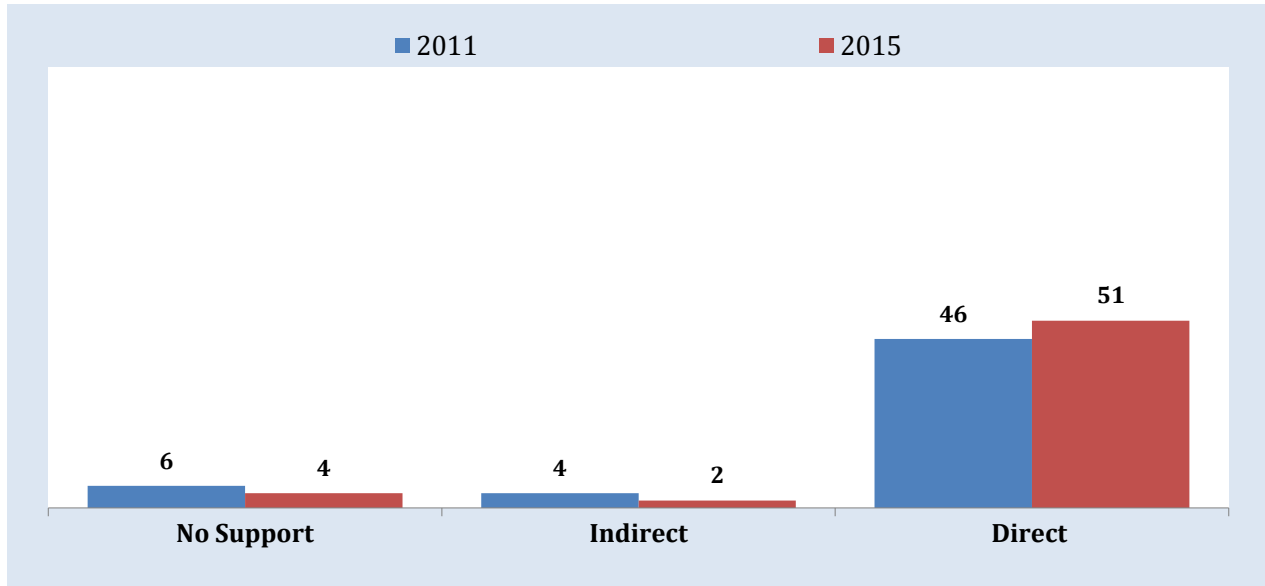
Figure 4.3 illustrates the state of government support for family planning in OIC countries in 2011 and 2015, and reveals progress, albeit humble.

- The number of OIC countries without any family planning support decreased (from 6 to 4),
- The number of OIC countries with indirect family planning support decreased (from 4 to 2),
- The number of OIC countries that provide direct family planning support went up (from 46 to 51).

As more OIC countries pay more attention to family planning policies and provide direct support to married couples, the family institution is expected to be strengthened. OIC countries need to develop measures to monitor the effectiveness of family planning support policies with a view to improve their

quality and scope to ensure getting desired results from family planning policies. In particular, targeted policies need to be developed to reach families living in disadvantaged areas such as in rural and remote areas or conflict zones in order to ensure the full coverage of such policies.

Figure 4.3: State of Government Support for Family Planning in OIC Countries



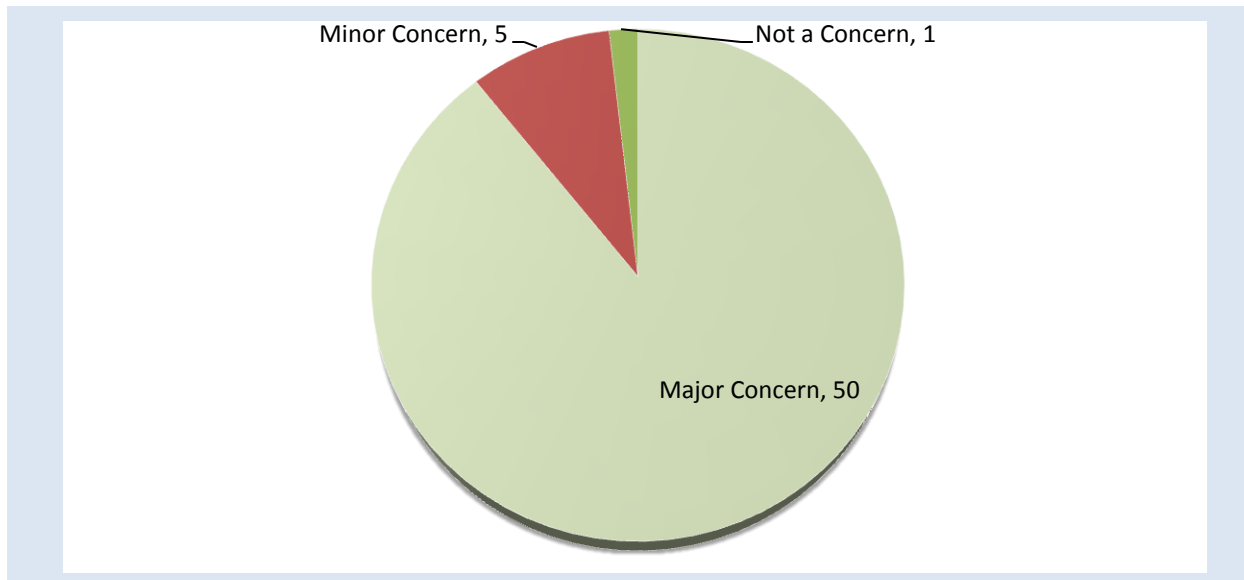
Source: United Nations, World Population Policies Database.

4.3 Violence against Women

There is a growing worldwide recognition that violence against women is a gross violation of women's human rights. It is also widely acknowledged that violence has significant negative adverse effects on women's health as well as children's and family well-being. Therefore, providing an assessment on the availability violence against women policies in OIC countries can be important to draw right policy recommendations on family values, family-well-being and unity.

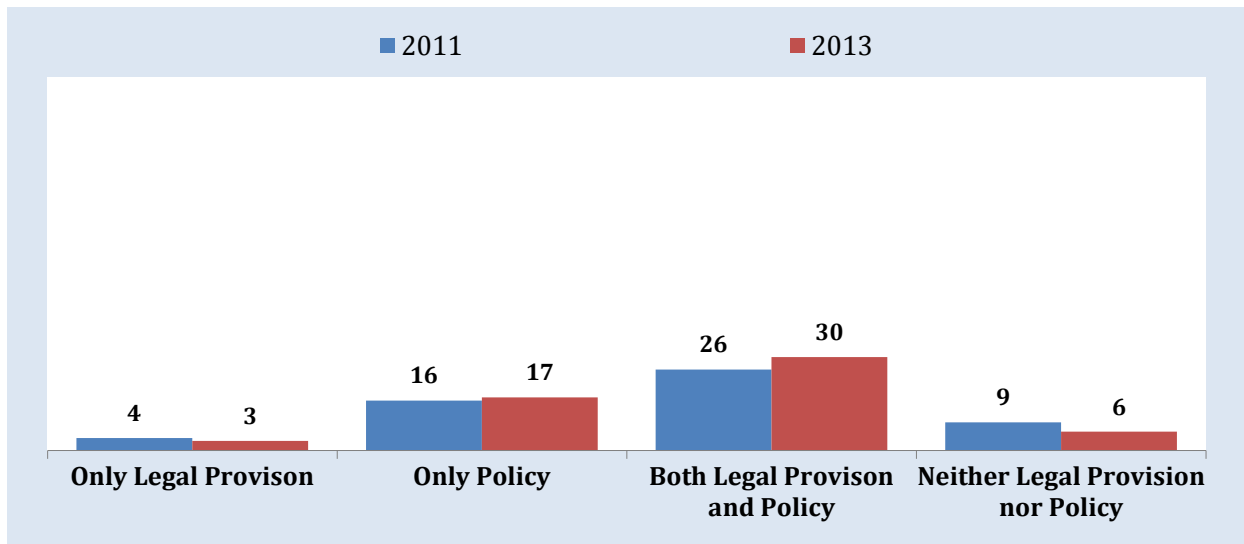
According to a UN survey conducted in 2011, almost all OIC countries (50 OIC countries) indicated that violence against women is a major concern in their policy agenda (Figure 4.4). 5 OIC countries replied that it is a minor concern, whereas only 1 OIC country did not put a cross that it is a concern. Yet, when it comes to the implementations regarding this concern through legal and policy measures, only 26 OIC countries adopted both legal provisions and policy measures in order to fight with domestic violence in 2011. By 2013, however, the reached to 30 OIC countries (Figure 4.5). In 2013, 3 OIC countries had legal provisions without a policy, whereas 17 OIC countries developed policies against domestic violence without a legal provision. Overall, it is fair to say that there is a positive but a very slow development in OIC countries in terms of taking relevant measures on violence against women that may be one of the key success factors while developing effective family policies.

Figure 4.4: Level of Government Concern about Violence Against Women in OIC Countries, 2011



Source: United Nations, World Population Policies Database.

Figure 4.5: State of Government Policies to Prevent Domestic Violence in OIC Countries



Source: United Nations, World Population Policies Database

4.4 Family-Work Balance

The Section 3 discussed that, subsequent to industrialization and urbanization, an increasing number of family members, particularly women, have become active in labor markets. Accordingly, ensuring the right mix of family-work balance has become very important to maintain a healthy family life and safeguard family values.

Governments all across the globe have developed different compensation measures to maintain family-work balance; these measures can be grouped under eight main categories: maternity leave, paternity

leave, parental leave, baby bonus, child or family allowances, tax credit for dependent children, flexible or part-time work hours for parents, and publically subsidized childcare.

Table 4.1 summarizes the state of government measures on family-work balance in OIC countries for the year 2015. According to Table 4.1, all OIC countries have some sort of maternity leave measure for childbirth with job security (paid or unpaid). This is a substantially positive measure given that maternity protection for employed women is an essential element for preserving the health of the mother and the new-born, and, furthermore, to provide job security for women.

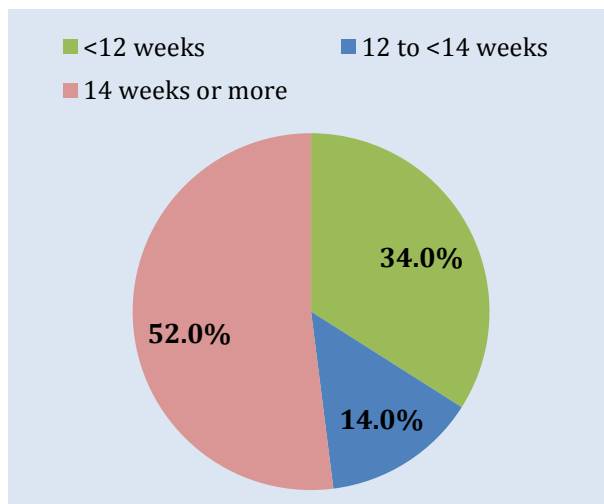
Yet, job security also includes maintenance of wages and benefits during maternity, prevention of dismissal during pregnancy, maternity leave and a period of time after return to work (UN, 2010).

Table 4.1: Government Measures on Family-Work Balance in OIC Countries, 2015

	Number of OIC Countries	% of OIC Countries
Maternity leave for childbirth with job security (paid or unpaid)	57	100
Paternity leave for childbirth with job security (paid or unpaid)	21	36.8
Parental leave for childcare at home (paid or unpaid)	11	19.3
Baby bonus (lump sum payment)	18	31.6
Child or family allowances	35	61.4
Tax credit for dependent children	10	17.5
Flexible or part-time work hours for parents	14	24.6
Publically subsidized childcare	27	47.4

Source: United Nations, World Population Policies Database

Figure 4.6: Length of Maternity Leave (50 OIC Countries), 2013



Source: SESRIC Staff calculations based on the United Nations, Statistics and Indicators on Women and Men, 2013.*Length of maternity leave: The length of time for which maternity leave is provided, whether with or without pay.

The right of maternity leave is critically important for the overall well-being of family where mother can stay at home for a designated period with her new-born and fulfill her motherhood duties. The ILO Maternity Protection Convention 2000 (No. 183) has set the international standard for the duration of maternity leave at 14 weeks— this is an increase from the standard of 12 weeks specified in the previous Convention.

26 out of 50 OIC countries meet the new international standard of 14 weeks (52% of all OIC countries). In 2013, 7 out of 50 OIC countries (14% of all) met the 12 week durations of maternity leave matching the previous ILO Convention standard (Figure 4.6). However, 17 out of 50 OIC countries (34% of all) meet neither the new nor the old standard of maternity leave.

The right to access paid benefits during maternity leave is essential for maternity protection, and the majority of OIC countries provide these benefits. Without paid benefits, a woman may find herself under pressure to return to work sooner before she recovers herself fully after delivery. The new ILO Convention stipulates that cash benefits during maternity leave be paid at the rate of at least two thirds of the woman's previous or insured earnings for a minimum period of 14 weeks. As of 2013, 36 OIC countries were providing 14 weeks or more of cash benefit at the rate of at least two thirds the woman's average earnings (SESRIC, 2016b). Moreover, the funding of maternity benefits presents an important source of discrimination against women. Payment through social insurance or public funds may reduce discrimination against women of childbearing age in the labor market, as employers are freed from bearing the direct costs of maternity. However, 29 OIC countries continue to provide that payment during maternity leave by the employer with no public or social security provision.

As maternal leave, paternity leave for childbirth with job security (paid or unpaid) is an important right recognized by increasing number of countries across the globe. Being together as a father with the newborn and mother after delivery is essential for mother and an important source of happiness for the whole family. Despite its positive impacts on the family values and institution, only 21 OIC countries (representing 36.8% of all members) allowed for paternity leave in 2015. Even when it comes to recognition of the right of parental leave for childcare at home (paid or unpaid), the number of OIC countries goes down as low as 11.

On the other hand, about one third of OIC countries (31.6%) provide a bonus for new-born babies as a lump sum payment to the families where in 39 OIC countries there is no such a baby bonus scheme (Table 4.1). The government support in terms child or family allowance is available in 35 OIC countries where 22 OIC countries do not provide such an allowance scheme. On the other hand, only in 10 OIC countries there exists some form of tax credit scheme for dependent children, which is an important incentive mechanism for families.

Although increasing number of countries all across the globe adopt flexible or part time work hours for parents in order to allow more time to spend with their families, only 14 OIC countries allow for such working schemes. Existence of subsidized childcare may help families in the process of childbearing through guiding them in well-established and standardized kindergartens where children spend their time by developing new skills while their parents are at work. In this regard, providing public subsidized childcare support would be an important enabler for families during the childbearing process. Despite its positive role on childbearing and family well-being, only 47.4% of OIC countries (27 member countries) provide publically subsidized childcare where in 30 OIC countries there does not exist such a policy.

Overall, the analysis on the existence of eight major government measures to ensure family-work balance reveals the existence of some important challenges in a number of OIC countries either related with the lack of a measure as in the case of flexible work hour scheme or the limited scope and effectiveness of measure as shown in Figure 4.6 (the length of maternal leave right). In this regard, a significant number of OIC countries still need to provide additional services for families and extend the scope of delivery of family-work balance measures in order to improve family well-being, preserve family values and strengthen the marriage institution.

5. Concluding Remarks & Policy Implications

Securing the Future of Family and Marital Unions in OIC Member States

The turn of the millennium triggered important changes in structure of families and marital union, and globalization and associated processes further fostered these changes spreading them all across the globe including OIC societies.

This report, titled, *Safeguarding Family Values and the Institution of Marriage in OIC Countries*, aims to provide a thorough understanding of how families and marital union are changing in the new millennium and to identify the direction of this change.

For that aim, the report capitalizes two major concerns. It first presents key functions family and marital union undertake in societies, showing precisely why preserving family and the institution of marriage matter to societies or what costs do societies bear when families are weakened. As the smallest unit of a society, weakened family institution and family values not only pose a threat for members of families but also constitute an important risk factor for future political and economic stability and development.

Subsequently, the report identifies main economic, demographic, and cultural factors that have been impacting values, functions, and performance of families and marital union in contemporary OIC societies. Within this framework, it also presents a brief review of governmental policies towards family and marriage to assess whether OIC member states are able to cater emerging needs triggered by new challenges and changes.

In the light of these two major concerns and related discussions, the report draws two set of policy implications; demographic and economic changes and socio-cultural changes. It should be noted, however, that these seemingly separate domains in fact are interlocked and intertwined; hence, safeguarding family and marital union will require a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach.

5.1 Implications for Demographic and Economic Challenges

Increase social and income security of families

One policy option for OIC countries to improve family well-being and empowering the family institution is to increase allocated budgets on social protection programs and measures (e.g. social assistance and

benefits). Such effectively designed and targeted social security measures would be helpful for families to restore their weakened values and strengthen the relationship among family members. Moreover, these measures can also ease family formation and encourage youth generation to establish and sustain a balanced family life.

Develop measures for poverty and hunger

In countries where individuals and families are struck by poverty and hunger, social benefit programs need to include specific measures especially to reduce negative impacts of poverty on family values and well-being.

Address migration

Migration and population mobility, whether in pursuance of better opportunities or forced, have become a pervasive reality in OIC countries. Migration (both intended and forced migration) figures indicate many OIC countries have been facing increasing pressure both in terms of inflows and outflows of people. This pressure has led to a set of new challenges both for migrant and resident families in many OIC countries, requiring new public support programs to effectively cope with these challenges. Policy-makers in OIC countries should develop policies to reach all sorts of families in the society (e.g. families in new urban areas, slum areas, rural areas etc). For instance, designing micro-credit programs targeting females in newly emerged urban areas (e.g. slum areas) would help them to generate income for their families and mitigate the negative impacts of migration on family values and institution.

Honor the need for work-family balance, especially of women

Changes in labor markets, especially the increasing rate of female labor participation, mandate policymakers to adjust labor markets to the new demographic and economic realities. In specific, labor markets in OIC countries need to become more flexible and consider adopting alternative working systems such as part time working or flexible working hour in order to increase the length of time for family members to spend together. As discussed in chapter 4, only in 14 OIC countries such flexible working systems were available in 2015.

Promote family enterprise

Given the considerable role of family businesses in employment generation and total economic activity, governments should provide support to young family businesses. This support may include entrepreneurship training and family-business-specific management training as well as more targeted financial support, which may include tax incentives and tax reliefs for start-ups and grants and incentives to support research and development.

Establish new alliances between public institutions and family

Increasing number of families need to benefit from public family services (e.g. family consultation and mediation) to address their variety of family problems. However, these families often do not fully know which public institution is responsible for what. Opening up public family centres composed of a set of experts (e.g. sociologist, psychologist, family planning expert, and lawyer) that would extend consultation and mediation services for families to address their problems would fill an important gap and play a key

role between families and public institutions. In this context, policy-makers in OIC countries can consider the potential contributions of such multifunctional public family centres.

5.2 Implications for Cultural Challenges

Support responsible parenthood through education

Among other policy dimensions, education policies can play a central role to strengthen the family institution and preserve family values in OIC countries. Life-learning education and training programmes designed for youth and adult population on family values, importance of family and marriage institution can help OIC countries to cope with emerging threats against family institution. Life-learning modules and specific training programs targeting adult population would also be important to address wrong beliefs and knowledge on family planning. These programs can also be useful for adults to learn about their rights and obligations as members of a family that can help them to fulfill their functions in the family life.

Moreover, reviewing existing curricula and education programs from a family values perspective would help OIC countries to train their generations on these values. In particular, children and youth can be equipped with correct knowledge on family value and family life. Education policies to strengthen the family institution in OIC countries would also impact marriages in a positive way in the long-term. As young generations witness increasing numbers of happy and strong families in their respective societies, this would encourage them for family formation.

Finally, providing educational services to parents for them to establish and preserve healthy and committed relationships, through which children can learn self-respect and respect for others and contribute to the economic development through productive work. Marriages can be fragile in many poor and working-class communities due to limited job prospects and poverty. By scaling up vocational education and training programmes for parents to enhance their employability and income generation possibilities, and by providing special assistance for the education, health and nutrition of children and youth, prospects of families for productive contribution to economic development process can be raised.

Help the youth to manage global influences

The youth will determine the future direction of family and marital life given that they will be future marital partners and parents. As such, policies that aim to preserve family and marital values should pay a particular focus on the youth and their value transformation.

Studies on the new generation, namely, the Generation Y, so far have documented that this new generation is thorn between a wider cultural trend towards individualist and consumerist lifestyles and their family and community oriented values. This tension manifests itself in various ways including most notably a perceived clash between work and family life. Global communication technologies and media further perpetuate this tension by promoting an image of family and marriage as out-of-date institutions hindering individual progress and freedoms.

Policymakers should give priority to help the youth to balance out these conflicting elements, partly rooted in worsening economic conditions, but in large part exacerbated by media and new cultural trends. This requires not only social and economic security systems that would ease out economic hardships facing young couples and their family formation, but also cultural programs that would

promote a new narrative endorsing and promoting family life and marital union as aspect of human life that indeed complements and facilitates individual progress, quality of life, and happiness

Such an initiative directed at youth's public opinion making, at a broader level, requires policymakers to gain a precise understanding of the new generation's worldview, from attitudes towards interpersonal relationships to aspirations about work, family and leisure, as well as political values. In other words, member states should carry out comprehensive studies and research that would map out the youth's value system.

5.3 Fight Harmful Practices by Prevention

In general, several policies from organising public awareness campaigns to enacting legislations can be used to fight against different harmful practices. Nevertheless, the most effective way of fighting against harmful practices is "prevention" and the best way to increase prevention is to invest into education and re-organise education curriculums (including family-learning programmes) with an aim to raise awareness and to reduce harmful practices.

Organising public campaigns can also help policy-makers both in their efforts to get public support and to increase the effectiveness of their policies on harmful practices. Nevertheless, the success of these policies depends on long-term planning and political willingness in developing countries, including OIC members. Therefore, short-sighted policies without addressing the root-causes of harmful practices, such as ignorance and lack of understanding on basic rights of human-being, can only bring a partial solution.

Involve NGOs and the Private Sector

While designing and implementing family policies, policy-makers in OIC countries also need to find ways to benefit from the existing capacity of NGOs (non-governmental organizations) as these organizations can play a catalyst role between state and society, and may improve the effectiveness of family policies. In particular, in some OIC countries and regions (e.g. some conflict zones and some remote areas), NGOs implemented successful programs to support family values and members, and reached a considerable number of families. In this regard, OIC countries should not neglect the potential contributions of some successful NGOs given their level of expertise and experience.

To conclude, it should be noted that there is no one-size-fits-all policy, local conditions of OIC countries matter in the area of family policy design. For instance, some OIC countries need to prioritize aging population problem and its consequences on family values and life. On the other hand, some OIC countries should pay a high attention on family planning policies to cope with high fertility pressure on women that may be harmful for the health of mother and well-being of family. In this regard, each OIC country needs to carefully analyze its local dynamics and conditions in order to find out priority areas in their family policy formulation.

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UNICEF MICS Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys

World Bank Education Statistics

World Bank Gender Statistics

World Bank, Health, Nutrition, and Population Statistics

World Bank MICS

UN World Population Policies Data Set

World Bank WDI

World Value Surveys