

## Satisfying the Needs of Children of Unknown Parentage between the Social Responsibility of Charities and the Trends of Saudi Families

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### Abstract

*The issue of children of unknown parentage is one of the social issues known by human societies throughout history. The present study attempted to clarify the participatory responsibility between Al-Wedad Charity organization and Saudi families in caring for children with unknown parents and satisfying their needs in a natural environment. The study draws its importance from the call of the Islamic religion to care for orphans and social solidarity. The Kingdom is interested in providing quality of life opportunities for all citizens in accordance with Vision 2030. The study is based on the theory of symbolic interaction, which is concerned with a social analysis of the interaction that takes place within systems, as well as the integration between the systems that make up a society, and represents the process of communication and interaction that is linked to the self-formation, brain maturity and social consciousness. Trends in an individual's development and maturity are the result of his/her experiences resulting from interaction with the social and physical environment around him/her. This study falls within the descriptive studies and relied on the social survey approach. The questionnaire tool was used to collect data from Saudi families while conducting interviews with experts working at Al-Wedad Charity organization. The number of responses to the questionnaire reached 180 families during the period it was available to collect data. Five experts working at Al-Wedad Charity organization were interviewed, representing the spatial field in the city of Dammam. It reached many results that achieved its goal, the most important of which is the presence of trends, some of which are positive among families about caring for and embracing people of unknown parentage, and others are negative due to the inferiority view of this group among some, which emanates from the lack of recognition by their parents. The study recommends the necessity of each of the orphan care institutions cooperating with Saudi families and sharing the responsibility, to provide a natural environment suitable for the care and upbringing of children of unknown parents.*

**Keywords:** *unknown parentage - social responsibility - trends - needs.*

### Introduction

#### Study Problem

The issue of children of unknown parentage is one of the social issues that human societies have known in their past and present, and they seek to address it in light of its constants derived from its sub and global cultures reflected in the international human rights acts that its countries have signed and ratified. (Al-Qisas, 2015, 2904)

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Children of unknown parentage are considered one of the groups that suffer from deprivation from the moment of birth. Rather, this group may suffer from deprivation in the pre-birth stage, which is the embryonic stage, during which the mother is in a bad psychological state that affects the fetus, as studies have confirmed that illegitimate pregnancy leads to serious psychological disorders, as the mother feels the guilt associated with the pregnancy, social pressures, and future uncertainty, and this may lead to incompatibility with the pregnancy, which in turn affects the development of the fetus (Al-Tanbouli, 2017, 14).

Children are the country's true wealth and the foundation for its development and prosperity, but before these children reach the age of giving and maturity, they go through several stages in their lives, the most important of which is childhood itself. The primary relationships with the mother and father, or surrogate parents, play an important role in forming the psychological structure of the child who will become the man of the future, according to the psychological security he perceives, attention, respect, and discipline from the parents. Any dysfunction in these relationships can have adverse effects, including exposure to psychological disorder, displacement or deviance (Farghaly, 2012: 57).

By studying the interactions of children deprived of family care with their peers, it became clear that they are less social and more self-centered. This is due to the absence of the parents from participating in caring for the child and interacting with him, making him less able to cope with stress in new situations and unable to face challenges. So the relationship between the child and the parents are a very sensitive relationship that arises from childhood, and based on it, the child's personality is determined. Either he is a human being who enjoys good psychological health and possesses all the elements of a stable, unshaken personality, or he is a personality who suffers from all the signs of psychological and social deprivation, which leads him to fail to integrate into society.

In accordance with Islamic and international standards for children's rights, every child has the right to grow up in a supportive and loving environment that meets his physiological, psychological, mental and social needs. Every child has the right to know his descent, to be proud of his unique national, cultural, linguistic and spiritual identity, to live in a safe and supportive environment that respects his human right and dignity, and a chance of fair education and development of social skills. When making any decision related to adoption, what is best for the child must be taken into account (Muslim Women's Shura Council, 2011).

Under an agreement with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Al-Wedad Charitable Organization assumes responsibility for all orphaned children without parental care in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in terms of receiving them, providing temporary care for them, and assigning their custody to qualified Saudi families in accordance with the approved conditions.

Conditions for adopting an orphan:

- The family must be Saudi.
- The wife must be at least 25 years old at the time of submission of the application.
- The wife's age shall not exceed 50 years at the time of adoption.
- Social, economic and psychological eligibility.
- Achieve a standard of safety and health.
- Security safety is achieved.
- The family's legitimate breastfeeding requirement is met.
- Obtaining an adoption permit.

Objectives of embracing orphans:

- Achieving sound upbringing within a normal family.
- Achieving the legal existence of the orphan after the age of puberty.
- Achieving the first steps in changing society's outlook and ensuring the child's need for food and health care.
- Ensuring family security and prosperity through a stable family atmosphere.
- Satisfying the orphan child's need for awareness and knowledge through care, understanding and education.

Many field studies at the global and local levels have demonstrated that the ideal environment for a child's upbringing is only in a normal family environment, and that childcare institutions are far from the ideal environment for children's upbringing. Many researchers have been interested in addressing the subject of unknown parentage through several previous studies, including:

The Madbouly Study (2002) noted that the use of realistic therapy helps to develop social responsibility in its dimensions (care, understanding and participation) for people of unknown parentage and develop their awareness of interaction with society and sense of values of belonging and loyalty.

Al-Sayed's study (2008) indicated the most important negative effects resulting from depriving the child of the family and the mother, which are the decline in the level of physical, cognitive, mental and linguistic development, personality disorder, inability to form social relationships with others, in addition to the emergence of many problems such as anxiety, depression, isolation, lack of respect for others and lack of self-esteem, along with various psychological development disorders.

A study by (Al-Otaibi, 2010) showed that most surrogate families feel embarrassed to present the surrogate child to relatives and neighbors, which impedes his integration into society. Also, most families embrace the surrogate child for humanitarian motives and to satisfy the feelings of motherhood and fatherhood away from material motives. Surrogate families believe that the many needs of the adopted child affect the family's ability to meet his requirements and demands, and thus affect his access to appropriate care. The results of Al-Otaibi's study also indicate the importance of careful study of surrogate families before handing over the child to them, which may be reflected in their care for him.

(Bick 2011) also indicated the presence of behavioral and psychological problems for children in residential institutions that raise them as a surrogate mother because they cannot be an alternative to the biological mother during the breastfeeding stage because breastfeeding a child shows signs of pleasure and cheerfulness on their faces and activates. These findings illustrate the importance of understanding the biological processes that are associated with the formation of bonds in relationships between mothers and their infants.

The study of (Mabrouk, 2011) also showed that this category of groups deprived of family care exhibits behaviors among its members that reflect their rebellion and their feeling that society does not accept them, and these behaviors include aggression and withdrawal from situations. They also suffer from dissatisfaction with themselves and thus develop low view of themselves because they do not sense that they have value to others, which causes them to lose their sense of self, and affects their concept of themselves. Also, being deprived of a natural family puts them in a state of identity crisis, and they feel a lack of self-confidence, insecurity, and hesitation to make decisions, and thus their inability to confront situations dwindles, which results in social and psychological problems. They also go through many psychological crises, and suffer from

anxiety, frustration, depression, despair, conflict, and difficulties in self- and social harmony, which affects their personalities and social relationships.

The study of Al-Sadhan, (2011), shows people of unknown parentage as a category of society, albeit limited in numbers, require a humanitarian gesture from the society and a specialized social care program for them. Despite the effectiveness of the surrogate family system, there are a number of obstacles that show the system is not being implemented well, as some surrogate families tend to provide excessive love, affection, and pampering to the foster child, which may spoil him and make him rebel against the family and society at large in the future, so the family is unable to care for him and file a request to abandon him. Some families also accept the child when he is young and embrace him under certain circumstances. Once he grows up and reaches adolescence, they are unable to deal with him. Some families do not inform the child of his identity or past at all, which makes him discover on his own in a way that may disrupt and destroy his social and psychological life and make him vent his anger and revenge on the family and society.

The study of (Dakhinat, 2012) also aimed to know the situation of the surrogate family and its capabilities in integrating the foster child socially. This study followed the descriptive approach with a targeted sample. Many tools were used, including observation, interview and questionnaire. The study concluded that the surrogate families that foster a child are sterile families characterized by a good educational level, as most of them have a secondary or university level, and most of the surrogate families, either rich or well-off, who can meet the financial and other needs of the fostered child. The study found that surrogate families tend to embrace and adopt children at an early age in order to facilitate the process of socializing them so that the child has the idea that this family is his biological family that gave birth to him which helps with the upbringing of the child early stages that are usually filled with emotional satisfaction. The child fostered by the surrogate family is treated in a manner that is characterized by increased protection as a reflection, because of the intense desire of the surrogate mother and father to satisfy their instinct to exercise a parental role. Surrogate families also try to integrate the child socially by giving him the family name and lineage.

The study of (Ammar, 2016) also attempted to reveal the extent to which society members accept and integrate people of unknown parentage and the problems caused by the lack of acceptance and integration into society. The study was also applied to 255 individuals in Bani Sweif Governorate, and the study concluded that community members interact with people of unknown parentage, and enter into normal social relationships with them such as friendship, work, and neighborhood, but the sample members refuse to associate with people of unknown parentage through marriage.

(Bukhwaish, 2017) study revealed the nature of the lives of surrogate families that care for children of unknown parentage placed within them and identified the most important problems they suffer from. The study concluded that the most important problems facing the surrogate family are the parents' ignorance of the principles of upbringing, the adoptive family's desire to consider the adoptee as a natural son, and the involvement of female children in household chores.

From the above literary review, and through the importance of caring for children and their proper social upbringing while satisfying their needs, especially children of unknown parentage, and based on the importance of the role of charitable organizations in caring for orphans in general, and the Al-Wedad Charitable organization in particular, which bears the responsibility of caring for this category and tries to provide a suitable family environment to care for these children. The problem of the current study is determined in clarifying the shared responsibility between the Al-Wedad Charitable organization and Saudi surrogate families in satisfying the needs of people of unknown parentage.

### Study's Questions

1. What are the attitudes of Saudi families towards the issue of embracing people of unknown parentage?
2. What are the factors affecting the adoption process of children with unknown parentage?
3. What are the proposals to activate the joint responsibility between the Al-Wedad Charity and the Saudi family to provide an environment that satisfies the needs of people of unknown parentage?

### Study's Goals

- 1- Determine the attitudes of Saudi families towards the issue of embracing people of unknown parentage.
- 2- Describe the factors affecting the process of embracing people of unknown parentage.
- 3- Reaching a set of proposals to activate the joint responsibility between the Al-Wedad Charity and Saudi families to provide an environment that satisfies the needs of people of unknown parentage.

### Study's Importance

The study derives its importance from the Islamic religion's teachings and its call for orphan care and solidarity, and it falls within the framework of the Kingdom's developmental projects and its interest in providing quality of life opportunities for all citizens in accordance with Vision 2030. The number of associations and institutions caring for people of unknown parentage in the Kingdom reached (4), followed by (14) branches, while the number of people with unknown descent and missing parents in the Kingdom for the year 2021 to 2075, according to statistics from the Capacity-Building Initiative and Exchange of Experiences of orphans' Charitable Organizations in KSA. (Statistics of the Specialized Sub-Council for orphans' Charitable Organizations, 1443, p. 21).

The importance of studying social responsibility for people of unknown parentage is shown in the following:

- 1- Explaining the importance of satisfying the needs of this group and its role in building strong, promising youth personalities who feel safe and secure in a favorable familial climate that makes them feel that they are part of this society, proud of their national identity, striving to achieve Vision 2030.
- 2- Demonstrating the importance of integration and solidarity in building society through exercising social responsibility for both surrogate families and charitable organizations.
- 3- This study contributes to directing families towards the importance of forming positive attitudes among people of unknown parentage towards the self and society by focusing on the socialization process, as many social and educational researches have focused on it as a means of predicting behavior and understanding social and psychological phenomena.
- 4- Enriching the cognitive and theoretical aspects regarding caring for people of unknown parentage and social responsibility.
- 5- This study comes in an attempt to point out the efforts of institutions working in the field of caring for people of unknown parentage.

### Study Concepts

The study discusses the concepts of (unknown parentage - social responsibility - trends - needs)

- 1- Unknown Parentage Concept:

There are numerous terminological definitions for this concept, including:

They are foundling children: A foundling is a newborn who has been abandoned by his family out of fear or to escape the accusation of adultery. Islam has classified them as orphans because of the lack of identity, family and relatives providing for their needs, care and attention (Al-Omar, 2000, p. 15).

It is also defined as: "An individual who does not know who his/her parents are, who was abandoned in one of the ways (leaving him in the hospital or on the street) and who is picked up by authorities and placed in private care institutions, at a very young age (since infancy) they are currently placed in families other than their real families, and they were informed when they reached legal age that they were adopted by the surrogate family itself." (Amzian, 2007, p. 2).

Another definition to this concept is: children who are born with unknown parentage or illegitimate children, in whom one of the parents is unknown, and usually it's the mother while the father often is unknown, and this child is the conceived outside of wedlock, which makes the possibility of proving paternity difficult. And it also falls within the framework of this definition: (children of unknown parentage as a result of war, natural disasters, and sexual assaults within or outside the family). (Bulbul, 2008, p. 6).

Those of unknown parentage are procedurally defined as:

- Children under two years of age.
- Those that lack parental care because they are without a father, mother, or family.
- They are provided with care through specialized social institutions.

## 2- Social Responsibility Concept:

There are many viewpoints on the concept of social responsibility and its practice in different sectors from the standpoint of multiple schools.

Social responsibility represents an ethical theory meaning "any entity", whether organizations or individuals, has a responsibility to work for the benefit of society as a whole Jensen (2006). It is also something that every organization or individual must do to maintain the balance between the economy and the ecosystem or the ecological and social system Stefan (2009). As a concept or practice it is not new, but rather it is an authentic culture in Islam, and our Prophet Muhammad PBUH, urged it when he said (All of you are shepherds and all of you are responsible for your flock).

Social responsibility is defined also as a human and moral commitment undertaken by institutions towards the society, in which they operate, by contributing to a wide range of social activities such as fighting poverty, improving health services etc. (Fatih et al., 2020, 16).

Social responsibility is defined procedurally:

- Efforts of charitable institutions in the field of caring for people of unknown parentage.
- Informing families of the importance of making an effort to care for people of unknown parentage in cooperation with institutions working in this field.
- Providing a safe, natural environment in the arms of a natural family in accordance with the laws and regulations for fostering and adoption.

## 3- The concept of the needs of those of unknown parentage:

Social needs are manifested at different levels of interaction in society; satisfying them leads a person to a state of satisfaction. Human needs never disappear as they are rooted in their life, where there are three basic types of social needs: family affection, friendly & formal relationships, and love relationships.

The family is considered the first form of society, and within it the first concepts of social interaction are developed. Every child sees in their parents the first role model in terms of social stimuli and responses, so they look in them for the first signs of recognition and reciprocity. In this way, the family acts as a support that allows the proper development of a human being during his/her early stages, and this will determine the way he/she develops socially in the future.

The situation of children deprived of parental care varies around the world and there is no single solution that will work for all children and their families. It is important to envision many different avenues to a successful outcome. However, policies can be made more effective if they take into account the specific needs of different groups of children at risk. (Costanza, R., et al, 2007).

Considering that the family is the social unit that bears the responsibility of upbringing and raising its children in a sound manner, so that they can face reality and have the ability to confront and deal with problems that may affect their proper social performance of their social functions, because of the impact the family atmosphere has on children's satisfaction of their basic emotional needs. If the child feels the security and reassurance provided by the family, this will appear in his/her relationships with the others around him/her (Amer et al., 2017, p. 74).

The needs of people of unknown parentage as children do not differ from other children except in their severity and depth, including the following: (Al-Harithi, Al-Zahrani, 2022, 79).

- The need for love and tenderness.
- The need for someone to listen to him/her and hear his/her complaints.
- The need for self-confidence and changing their view of themselves.
- The need for respect.
- The need for independence.

The needs of people of unknown parentage are defined procedurally as:

- A lack of attention felt by an orphan of unknown parentage.
- It affects their personality if ignored.
- This symptom increases as the child of unknown parentage grows older.
- It affects his/her attitudes towards himself/herself and others.

#### 4- Trends Concept:

Professor Ibrahim Madkour defined trends idiomatically as: "a stable psychological organization of the individual's cognitive, knowledge and emotional processes, which contributes to determining the final form of the response issued towards things, people and moral concepts in that this response whether of acceptance or rejection, depends on the experiences the individual gone through on one hand and on his/her temperamental characteristics on the other hand (Madkour, 1975).

Psychosocial trends are considered one of the most important outcomes of the socialization process, and at the same time they are one of the most important drivers of behavior that play a fundamental role in controlling and directing it. The concept of trends has gained great value in the field of social, psychological, educational, and economic research as a means of predicting behavior and understanding social and psychological phenomena (Al-Kharouf, Al-Dahamsheh, 2013, p. 686).

The trends are defined procedurally as:

- The result of an individual's responses to a specific issue, whether in support or opposition.
- It consists of the outcome of what the individual has learned through his/her family, his/her community, and the events that he/she experiences in their lives.
- It expresses the family's opinion as one of society's trends in adopting a child of unknown parentage.

Theoretical starting points:

The study is based on the theory of symbolic interaction because it depends on a social analysis of the interactions that takes place within systems and also the integration between the systems that make up a society. This theory goes back in its roots to the pragmatist philosophy school that William James and John Dewey came up with, followed by Herbert Mead. Symbolic interactionism is considered one of the basic axes on which social theory depends in analyzing social patterns.

The first person to come up with the symbolic interaction approach was the scientist Herbert Blumer, and he meant that: social action directed to obtain a response from others leads to the process of interaction, and this depends on the symbolic properties of the mind within the framework of the process of interaction and communication, as interacting (social) individuals do not adopt static socio-cultural patterns but they interpret these patterns by means of reason and symbols, which is why social processes and relationships and their outcomes are not considered fixed things as socio-cultural constructs, but rather as dynamic, variable and open processes.

In his lectures that he gave at the University of Chicago, during the period from 1894-1931, George Mead was able to crystallize in an elaborate manner the basic ideas of this theory. (Celebi, 1993, p. 237).

Mead begins by analyzing the communication process and classifying it into two categories: symbolic communication and non-symbolic communication. As for symbolic communication, it clearly emphasizes the use of ideas and concepts, and thus language is important for the process of communication between people in different situations. Accordingly, the social system is the product of actions made by members of society, and this indicates that meaning is not imposed on them, but is a topic subject to negotiation and deliberation between individuals. (Al-Julani, 1997, p. 216).

Mead believes that action is linked to the individual's self, represented by the individual's internal tendencies and inclinations, which are transformed into visible actions that have an impact on others. Therefore, the internal experience is linked to the external experience, and thus we can consider the action an analysis with two aspects: external and internal in which the trends that come from the individual's self determine the choice is the source of the intentional behavior of the act, and the choices of action are linked to what we imagine in the future. Future expectations are what control the course of the action and its rationality. Rational action is the action in which the actor can imagine future goals and their results. Thus, organizing the mind becomes a prerequisite for communication. Likewise, anticipating and assuming the future behavior of others helps in The process of social organization.

The process of interaction takes place through a symbolic system and leads to the establishment of a common symbolic system, and also leads to linking social constructs through the formation of the self and the mind. Thus, the concept of the self, the concept of the mind, social constructs and the relationships associated with these concepts become an introduction to the study of the individual's relationship with the group and society. In light of this scientific categorization of the concept of the self, this theory contributes to explaining the formation of the trends of individuals (interacting) within the societal framework through society's considerations and the extent of its acceptance



of them, and this is what this study reflects in its treatment of the trends of Saudi families towards embracing people of unknown parentage from a gender perspective, according to analyses of the impact of social factors, the extent to which society's considerations and acceptance of this type of relationship influence, and the impact of this on society's trends as individuals interacting within its framework.

This study is based on the basic idea of the symbolic interactionism theory, which is based on revealing these relationships and structures, and investigating the visible behavior and the associated trends that individuals carry towards themselves and towards society at large.

There is no doubt that these hypotheses are consistent with what was presented by the scientist George Mead, as Mead believes that social action in all its forms, whether it is action or speech, is a symbol of the meaning it contains that requires interpretation, and it constitutes the truths that people carry to themselves, to others, and to society, and in what people carry meanings for these aspects according to which they act, thus, the symbolic system becomes the most important in the process of communication and interaction, which is linked to the formation of the self, the maturation of the mind, and social awareness.

Trends form in the individual as he grows and matures and are the result of his experiences from the interaction between him/her and the social and physical surroundings around him/her. We see an example of these in social upbringing when the individual is aware of the symbolism of original lineage and the better social status it gives the individual in society, so the child grows up from childhood with a symbolic system for his social life in which he exalts his/her lineage and surrounds himself/herself with them. (Al-Kharouf, Al-Dhamasha, previous reference, p. 686).

### **Methodological procedures for the study:**

Type of study: This study falls within descriptive studies because it describes a specific reality linked to the responsibility of charitable institutions in caring for people of unknown parentage and also the responsibility of families to accept the idea of embracing these children to satisfy their needs in a natural environment and through positive methods of socialization.

Study Methodology: The study relied on the approach of the social survey of Saudi families in the city of Dammam to determine their attitudes towards caring for children of unknown parentage and the participation of charities in assuming responsibility for embracing them and satisfying their needs.

Data collection methods: The study relied on both an electronic questionnaire to collect data from Saudi families and interviews with experts working at the Al-Wedad Charity Organization.

The electronic questionnaire as a main tool includes:

- The primary data on the characteristics of the study sample were (gender, age, educational level, and monthly family income).
- The axes of the study consist of two main axes, and each axis includes a group of statements. The measurement of each statement ranges from agree (three degrees), neutral (two degrees), and disagree (one degree).

Validity and reliability of the study tool:

Apparent validity: The validity of the questionnaire was verified by presenting it to a committee of arbitrators, who are a group of faculty members in the Department of Sociology and Social Work. They expressed their comments that contributed to making minor adjustment to some of the statements.

Internal validity: Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to examine the relationship of the tool's statements to its axes. It was found that there are indicating correlations at 0.01 significance levels between the statements and the axes that follow them, which indicates internal validity of the questionnaire's axes, thus making it applicable.

Stability of the tool: It was applied to a survey sample of (27) individuals, who were excluded from the total sample, and the tool's alpha Cronbach's reliability coefficient was extracted for the questionnaire axes as shown in the following table.

Table (1) shows the Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient for the questionnaire axes

N	Axis	Alpha cronbach coefficient
1	Attitudes of Saudi families towards the issue of embracing people of unknown parentage	0,676
2	Factors affecting the adoption process for people of unknown parentage.	0,721
Overall reliability of the questionnaire		0,810

It is clear from the previous table (1) that the questionnaire has high reliability coefficients that make it suitable for application

Scope of the Study:

Spatial scope: The boundaries of the study are limited to the city of Dammam.

Time Scope: The data collection period lasted from 4/1/2023 AD to 6/1/2023 AD.

Human Scope: A comprehensive survey was taken on the study population and the number of responses to the questionnaire reached (180) during the period specified for collecting data from Saudi families.

The interview form was applied to a group of (5) employees of the Wedad Charity organization.

Description of the study population

Table No. (2) Shows a description of the study population of families, N = 180

	Primary data	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Female	172	%95.6
	Male	8	%4.4
	Total	180	%100
Age	Less than 25	117	%65
	25-35	26	%14.4
	35-45	21	%11.7
	45-50	8	%4.4
	More than 50	8	%4.4
Total		180	%100
Educational	Secondary school or less	38	%21.1
	Bachelor	133	%73.9

level	Masters	6	%3.3
	Doctorate	3	%1.7
Total		180	%100
Monthly Income	Less than 3000 riyal	131	%72.8
	From 6000 riyal to less than 9000 riyal	20	%11.1
	From 9000 riyal to less than 12000 riyal	16	%8.9
	More than 12000 riyal	13	%7.2
Total		180	%100

Table No. (3) Shows a description of the study population of experts, N=5

N	Primary Data	R	%
Gender	Female	3	60
	Male	2	40
Experience	From 7 years and above	5	100

## Statistical processing and interpretation of data

The study's data will be analyzed by trying to answer its questions and interpret it in light of the theoretical heritage, previous studies, and theoretical guidelines, and by relying on statistical methods such as frequencies, percentages, and arithmetic averages, as follows:

Table (4) shows the trends of Saudi families towards the issue of embracing people of unknown parentage (n=180)

N	Statement	Answers						Total weights	Weighted average	Rank
		(3) Agree		(2) Neutral		Disagree (1)				
		n	%	n	%	n	%			
1	I feel great appreciation and respect towards children of unknown parentage	148	%82.2	29	%61.1	3	%1.7	505	2,81	2
2	I believe that the lack of awareness of the issue of people with unknown parentage reduces the trend towards it	149	%82.8	26	%14.4	5	%2.8	504	2.8	6
3	I see that society's view reduces the desire to embrace people of unknown parentage	51	%28.3	43	%23.9	86	%47.8	325	1,80	8
4	I have sufficient knowledge about the issue of foster care for	47	%26.1	67	%37.2	66	%36.7	341	1,89	7

	children of unknown parentage									
5	In the future, I would like to adopt a child of unknown parentage	57	%31.7	88	%48.9	35	%19.4	382	2.12	5
6	I see that there is difficulty in integrating people of unknown parentage into society	81	%45	54	%30	41	%22.8	572	3.1	1
7	I feel that society's negative view hinders the integration of this group	130	%72.2	34	%18.9	16	%8.9	474	2.63	4
8	The circumstances of people of unknown parentage prompt me to cooperate with orphan care institutions to integrate them naturally into society	148	%82.2	24	%13.3	8	%4.4	500	2.77	3
Total weighted average								19,92		

It is clear from the previous table no. (4) That the total weighted average of the first axis of trends is (19.92), and the statements were arranged according to the consensus of the study population, where the statements (6 ranked first, statement 1 ranked second, and statement 8 ranked third). This confirms the presence of positive trends, represented by families' awareness of the difficulties faced by people of unknown parentage to integrate into society, their feeling of appreciation and respect for people of unknown parentage, and that there is also clear sympathy in society towards them, represented by the desire to integrate them into society and satisfy their needs in a natural way that will reflect positively on their personalities in the future. While other phrases received lower ranks indicating the weakness of these aspects among the study population, such as statements (3, 4), which indicate that the issue of embracing them still requires more awareness among some in order to form positive trends.

The opinions of experts from the workers of the Al-Wedad Charitable Organization for Orphan Care confirmed the different trends in Saudi society, between support for the idea of embracement among some and the need for others to form positive attitudes towards embracing people of unknown parents. These answers are based on a concrete vision of the reality of society by the workers, and this expresses a disparity in trends. The negative trend prevails in the statements of the workers of the Al-Wedad Charitable Organization, and these results are consistent with the findings of the study (Ammar, 2016), which revealed the extent to which members of society accept those of unknown parentage and the problems caused by a lack of acceptance and integration into society.

With regard to the social factors affecting society's attitudes towards embracing people of unknown parents, the results of the table are as follows:

Table (5) shows the social factors affecting the adoption of children of unknown parentage from the point of view of Saudi families (n=180)

N	Statements	Answers						Total Weights	Weighted Average	Rank
		Agree		Neutral		Disagree				
		n	%	n	%	n	%			
1	Society contributes to strengthening my tendencies towards adopting children of unknown parentage	59	%32.8	73	%40.6	48	%26.7	371	2,06	5
2	My weak economic situation reduces my desire to adopt children of unknown parentage	95	%52.8	52	%28.9	33	%18.3	422	2,34	2
3	I see that the difference in family culture affects the desire to adopt children of unknown parentage	29	%16.1	71	%39.4	80	%44.4	309	1,71	8
4	I think the stigma associated with people of unknown parentage reduces my interest in them	22	%12.2	51	%28.3	107	%59.4	275	1,52	9
5	The media encourages me to foster children of unknown parentage	61	%36.3	59	%35.1	48	%28.6	349	1,93	6
6	I think my family's traditions	83	%46.1	43	%23.9	54	%30	389	2,16	3

	influence my desire to embrace children of unknown parentage									
7	My friends view the category of people with unknown parentage negatively	20	%11.1	44	%24.4	116	%64.4	264	1,46	10
8	Charities reinforce my tendency to adopt children of unknown parentage	90	%50	70	%38.9	20	%11.1	430	2,38	1
9	My family has a positive attitude towards adopting children of unknown parentage	56	%31.1	88	%48.9	36	%20	380	2,11	4
10	My family encourages me to adopt children of unknown parentage	28	%15.6	92	%51.1	60	%33.3	328	1,82	7
Total weighted average								19,49		

It is clear from the previous table no. (5) That the overall weighted average of the second axis of factors is (19.49) and that the social factors influencing the adoption of children of unknown parentage in general are represented by the agreement of a large percentage of the study population that charities enhance families' trends towards embracing of children of unknown parentage, also weak economic situation reduce families' desire to foster or adopt children, and this can be linked to the presence of strict requirements from fostering institutions on the financial level of the surrogate family. Additionally, the customs and traditions of families negatively affect their desire to embrace, and the stigma reduces their interest in them. In general, this indicates that there are many social factors affecting the adoption process, as experts from the Wedad charity organization crystallized the factors that affect adoption process into many factors, including the psychological factor, the family factor, the social factor, the economic factor, and also the fear of neglect towards children of unknown parentage and laziness. Another influential factor is the inferiority view of people of unknown parentage, which has a great influence, and that society views them as children who are up to no good because they are of unknown lineage, as if they are responsible for what happened to them. The source of families' fear stems from the entry of one or both of the unknown parents into the family and learning about its secrets while they are complete strangers to it, and also the question of the

distribution of inheritance. This is consistent with the results of the study of (Al-Bar and Abu Al-Faraj, 2012), which confirmed the existence of a number of problems related to the identity of the orphan, their status, and their social circumstances, as a result of their lack of integration into society and their lack of enjoyment of a network of social relationships and social support, as well as their awareness of the values and customs of society in general and their sense of belonging. The theory of symbolic interaction also contributes to explaining the formation of the trends of individuals (interacting) within the societal framework through society's considerations and the extent of its acceptance of them. This is what was reflected in the results of the responses in the axis of society's trends towards embracing people of unknown parentage, in light of analyzing the impact of social factors, and the extent of the influence of considerations and acceptance families have towards this type of relationship, and its impact on the process of interaction of society members within its framework, as society trends emerged in the presence of a positive trend in the above-mentioned statements with the total weights, and through analysis of the influential social factors, there was a correlation between them and individuals' attitudes.

Regarding proposals to raise families' awareness towards adopting those of unknown parentage

The experts working at the Wedad charity organization agreed, according to their vision of reality in dealing with families who support the idea and families who refuse to embrace it, the following:

1. Holding public seminars for the community, forums and platforms that address the issue of foster care, and sending special invitations to influencers and activists on social media to visit institutions that care for people of unknown parentage, and highlighting the role of families in embracing those of unknown parentage.
2. Facilitating the conditions for adoption, continuous follow-up of surrogate families, and setting advantages for them to encourage families wishing to foster.
3. Adopting the issue of fostering from the concerned authorities and working to create a balance between the foster family and society while supporting parents who want to foster from a financial and family standpoint.
4. Directing research centers to intensify their efforts in psychological, educational and social studies on this issue of adoption in accordance with Islamic law, due to the lack of existing research in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that is in-depth into the situation of people of unknown parentage and society's trends towards them.

### **Study Recommendations**

- 1- The need for each of the orphan care institutions to cooperate with Saudi families and share social responsibility to provide a natural environment for raising children of unknown parentage.
- 2- Spreading awareness about children's rights and the importance of caring for them. Many parties share this responsibility, such as the media, clergy, universities, and charitable institutions.
- 3- Allowing families who have legitimate children to adopt a child of unknown parentage. Adoption is not limited to families who do not have children.
- 4- Conduct more research on the issue of embrace, adoption and child care.

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