Research Article

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Fear of COVID-19 Among the Hashemite University Students According to Some Variables

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Abstract

The current study aimed at identifying the level of the fear of Novel Coronavirus (covid-19) among the students of the Hashemite University in Jordan, according to following variables: faculty, academic year, sex, religion, residence, social status, birth order, family income, chronic diseases and Facebook account on a sample of 852 male and female students. As for the study tool, the researcher used the scale of fear of Corona based on the statistical analysis of the mean and standard deviation, as well as (ANOVA- Analysis of variance). The study came to some results, prominent among which were: the existence of moderate fear of Corona. According to variables, there were differences of statistical significance among the students in the fear of Corona in the light of two variables only: suffering from chronic diseases, and the family income standard. As for the rest of the variables, they had no effect in the differences among students regarding the fear of Corona. Based upon these results, the current study will be a qualitative addition to the current scientific research about the Corona Pandemic, particularly, in the study of the psychological implications of the impact of the Corona Virus on the people of the world.

Keywords: Fear; COVID-19; Universities students; The Hashemite University
1. Introduction

No one can ignore the real meaning of the COVID-19 effect on the whole world. The international communities, have so far, witnessed a huge suffering in confronting this virus in every walks of life for the individual and institutions affairs. There is no doubt, that the governments all around the world continents have faced difficulties in adjusting to this pandemic. The negative repercussions of the COVID-19 have had impacts on the lives of all mankind, particularly in the psychological, physical and social aspects (Holmes et al. 2020). The COVID-19 has caused a state of public panic and further decrease in the levels of mental health among the world’s peoples which in turn has increased feelings of worry and fear amongst them (Alskafi, 2020).

Fear and worry are among the concepts which indicate the people’s concerns and attention to maintain their health or welfare (Lin, 2020). One of the challenges to be taken into consideration is to understand the people’s responses regarding how to evaluate the fear of COVID-19 (Pakpour et al, 2020). The existence of moderate level of fear contributes to an increase of social distancing and constitutes an essential factor in the prevention of the disease. This attitude is what the governments and the World Health Organization is calling for, across the world. Consequently, and from psychological perspective, fear sometimes serves as a means of protection. It warns people of some dangers and prompts them to take the necessary measures to avoid their sources, like the “Fight or Flight” response (Akhtar, 2013). Moreover, fear might function as a motivation for the individual to take steps of protection against the infection (Plamper & Lazier, 2012).

On the other hand, fear might be nonfunctional, that is when discrepancy arises between the fear and its source, that is when fear develops into phobia and disrupts the course of our daily activities, like expecting a terrorist attack or violence from strangers, or when we hear about the possibility of the existence of a dangerous disease or a new spreading virus, when we are affected by this information, we might lose some of our spontaneity to which we are daily accustomed (Svendsen, 2008).

To be a human being means that you will experience fear from time to time, for fear traces people and accompanies them along their age stages. Some types of fears chase children; others only appear in the adolescence stage and maturity (Tuan, 2013). Fear and worry were looked upon as a normal growth phenomenon for a long time for children and adolescents. But since the eighteens, the situation has gradually changed, where doctors and researchers gradually came to the conclusion, that despite the fact fear and worry do exist in most children, these symptoms might become so severe in some young people that they greatly interfere with their daily performance which necessitates the importance of diagnosing fear and worry disorders and recognizing their spread among the youth (Muris, 2007).

Fears or COVID-19 vary and differ from one developmental stage into another, due to individual’s perceptions and their estimation of the volume of the threat and dangers to them. For example, a lot of children’s fears are fictional but for the adults and grown-ups or mature people, fears assume real meanings such as fear of pandemics and infection (Brill, 2010). So grows up or adult’s fears might help them to adapt to the new conditions or situations out of fear of everything. They for example, can recognize the historical memories of the flu pandemic in 1918 that killed more than 50 million people all over the world. Therefore, they can well realize the great effect of the biological terrorism which entails infectious factors (Magnusson & Zalloua, 2012).

University students account for the biggest proportion of the young people; hence we must pay attention to study their developmental features and their pressing or urgent needs and problems especially in such current circumstances. Therefore, the need to psychological treatment has become urgent due to the exposure of people in their different ages to high levels of terror and the fear of being infected by the pandemic, particularly given the economic cost and, social and health effects of the fear disorders (including severe or cute fears). These costs and effects are incredible or amazing. The severe fear increases the possibility of having physiological and psychological diseases such as anxiety and depression disorders (Jeffrey, 2013).
1.1 The Study problem

The new COVID-19 or the so called pandemic, according to the declaration of the world Health Organization (WHO) issued on 11th March 2020, constitutes a continuous suffering to all the world people (Cucinotta & Vanelli, 2020). Given the fact that the virus is spreading rapidly among people, all the efforts exerted in the remedial and health fields are still at stand still. This means that the fear among people is still continuous. Most countries in the world have recorded cases of infection in all age groups. AS it is agreed upon, this virus can be resisted better and more strongly by young people due to their strong immunity. But the death cases recorded by the world Health Organization included people in the youth stage. This fact may lead to an increasing fear on the part of most young people, including the students of Jordanian universities who witnessed a shift in their academic life like on line education. Therefore, the need exists to adapt to this pandemic, hence it has become necessary to evaluate the fear of Covid-19 among the university students in the light of some variables. We need to know the reasons behind the fear of this virus as well as to present the best solutions to enable the students to continue with their studies and feel satisfied with their university life.

1.2 The Study Questions

1- What is the level of the fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students?
2- What is the level of the fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students according to some variables (faculty, academic year, sex, religion, residence, social status, birth order, family income, chronic diseases and Facebook account)?

1.3 The Study Significance

The significance of this study lies in the fact of its being an attempt to identify the level of fear of the COVID -19 among the Hashemite University students, according to some important variables such as sex, place of residence, birth order, and others that may later on constitute the starting point of further research studies, especially that the subject of the current study is the focus of the whole world. Jordan is not an exception to this pandemic and is not far away of this pandemic. Jordan has witnessed several cases and even some death cases so far. The pandemic has involved all the spheres of life and it’s no longer exclusive to the health sector, but its effects have extended to include all sectors at the top of which is the higher education as well as the university students.

On the other hand, the concept of fear has been considered as one of the profound psychological concepts that have caught the attention of the psychologists throughout history. Fear is an emotional state that affects some people from time to time and it differs in intensity according to its resources. As it is commonly known, fear is perceived according to the estimation of the danger degree. Fear of the COVID-19 constitutes the highest degree of danger at the world level due to its danger at the present time. Therefore, the current study aspires to make a useful contribution through providing the concerned parties, tasked with the management of the Corona crises, with beneficial results and recommendations.

2. Methodology

To achieve the goals of this study, the descriptive research survey method was used, whereby the researcher collected the data through introducing the study scale (Fear of Covid-19 Scale) through referring to the scale link to respond to via on line learning platforms like (Microsoft teams). The study was conducted in the summer academic term in August of the academic year 2019/ 2020.
2.1 The Study Instrument

The researcher used (Fear of COVID-19 Scale) developed by (Ahorsu, et al., 2020) and he adopted the scales Arabic version developed by (Alyami, et al., 2020). Following checking the scale psychometric characteristics, the scale comprised 7 items, in addition to the demographic variables (type of faculty, academic year, sex, religion, place of residence, social status, birth order, family income level, suffering from chronic diseases, availability of personal Facebook account). The respondents were asked to assess their approval of the scales items. The answers' weights were distributed, according to Likert five-degree scale, starting with: strongly approve (5), approve (4), neutral (3), disapprove (2), strongly dis approve (1).

To check the scale psychometric characteristics, the internal symmetry of the items was calculated. The stability coefficient was calculated by the internal symmetry according to Cronbach’s alpha. Its value was (0, 93). This value was considered appropriate for the study purposes. Based on the aforementioned information, it is evident that the tool is applicable and reliable to the current study in terms of both implementation and the study results.

Furthermore, the statistical criterion of the scale was adopted for the purposes of the results analysis. The criterion ranged in between three groups:

From (1, 00 - 2, 33(low) - 2, 34 - 3, 67 (medium) - 3, 68 – 5, 00 (high)).

The scale was measured through using the following equation: The highest value (5) –The lowest value (1) divided by the number of the required groups (3), 5-1 ÷ 3= 1,33, And then adding the answer (1, 33) to the end of every group.

2.2 Study Sample

Study sample was distributed, according to the demographic characteristics.

Table 1: Frequencies and the percentages based on the study variables

| Categories          | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Faculty             |           |         |
| Human Faculties     | 300       | 35.2    |
| Science Faculties   | 552       | 64.8    |
| Academic year       |           |         |
| First               | 187       | 21.9    |
| The second          | 210       | 24.6    |
| The third           | 215       | 25.2    |
| The fourth          | 240       | 28.2    |
| Sex                 |           |         |
| Male                | 309       | 36.3    |
| Female              | 543       | 63.7    |
| Religion            |           |         |
| Muslim              | 829       | 97.3    |
| Christian           | 17        | 2.0     |
| Other than that     | 6         | .7      |
| Residence           |           |         |
| Town                | 722       | 84.7    |
| Camp                | 13        | 1.5     |
| Countryside and Villages | 117   | 13.7    |
| Social status       |           |         |
| Unmarried           | 803       | 94.2    |
| Married / Engaged   | 43        | 5.0     |
| Divorced / Widowed  | 6         | .7      |
| Birth order         |           |         |
| The biggest         | 231       | 27.1    |
| Middle              | 463       | 54.3    |
| smallest            | 148       | 17.4    |
| Single              | 10        | 1.2     |
### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Question 1:

What is the level of fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students?

To answer this question, mean and the standard deviation for the responses of the study sample were calculated on the scale of the covid-19. They were as follows:

| Items arrange according to the averages | Items arrange According to the scale                                      | Fear of COVID-19 Items                                      | Mean  | Std. Deviation | Fear level |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------|------------|
| 1                                       | 2                                                                      | It makes me uncomfortable to think about Corona            | 3.13  | 1.242          | Medium     |
| 2                                       | 5                                                                      | When I watch news and stories about Corona on social media, I become nervous or anxious. | 3.10  | 1.260          | Medium     |
| 3                                       | 1                                                                      | I am most afraid of Corona                                 | 3.08  | 1.182          | Medium     |
| 4                                       | 4                                                                      | I am afraid of losing my life because of Corona             | 2.58  | 1.302          | Medium     |
| 5                                       | 7                                                                      | My heart races or palpitates when I think about getting Corona. | 2.26  | 1.269          | Low        |
| 6                                       | 3                                                                      | My hands become clammy when I think about Corona             | 2.07  | 1.149          | Low        |
| 7                                       | 6                                                                      | I cannot sleep because I’m worrying about getting Corona.   | 2.00  | 1.146          | Low        |
| Total                                   |                                                                        |                                                            | 2.60  | 1.031          | Medium     |

Table 2 shows that the mean ranged between (2.00 – 3.13). Item 2 stipulating “I feel uncomfortable when I think of the COVID-19” came in the first place with arithmetic mean of (3.13), while item no. 6 stipulating “I can’t sleep because of the worry of getting infected with the COVID-19 was “in the last place with mean of (2.00). The total mean of the scale was (2.60).

This result is explained in the light of the pandemic state witnessed by the world. The echo of the pandemic is still around. The Feeling of being uncomfortable represents a normal emotional state as a reaction to the eminent threat resources that individuals expect as in the case of fear of covid-19 of which its direct and indirect psychological and social effects are obvious on the individual’s mental health. In addition, the government measures to curb the spread of the pandemic such as quarantine and social distancing, as well as, its economic and social repercussions, experienced by the Jordanian families, have resulted in crises in the social system (United Nations Development Programme, 2020). Therefore, different feelings of anxiety, sadness, rage, fear, frustration, upset, helplessness and feeling of guilt in the individuals of the same society, are likely to increase (Mamun and Griffiths, 2020).

Moreover, if we look at the limited cases of disease and death among the Hashemite University students, the level of fear of COVID-19 is lowest.
students, referring to the statistical curve of the total COVID-19 cases starting from 15th February to August 2020 (the date the study finished) (World Health Organization, 2020), we could present explanation of the lower limit indicators of the fear mean of COVID-19 among the students. This was referred to in one of the previous studies (Hawari, et al., 2020).

On the other hand, if we look closely at table 2, we can notice that items (3, 7) which reflects the physical aspect, appeared consecutively at the end of the means order and they are low in the scale, compared to the other items representing the psychological aspect. This is a strong indication that the physical symptoms were not concurrent with the psychological symptoms which means that fear among the students remain at its lowest levels. In addition, the physical symptoms or as it is called the manifestations of panic if they appear, might come accidentally for any disorder related to the meaning of worry or fear (Becker, et al., 2007). The results of this study is in consistent with the study (Duman, 2020; Gristenko, et al., 2020; Lee & You, 2019). But it differs from the study (Wang & Zhao, 2020) about the level of the fear of COVID-19 among the universities students.

3.2 Question 2:

Are there statistically significant differences at the level of significance (\(\alpha \leq 0.05\)) in the study sample responses of to the scale of fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students that are attributable to the variable of (faculty, academic year, sex, religion, residence, social status, birth order, family income, chronic diseases and Facebook account).

To answer this question, mean and standard deviations were calculated for the responses of the study sample according to variables (type of faculty, academic year, sex, religion, place of residence, social status, birth order, family income level, availability of personal Facebook account, and suffering from chronic diseases). The tables below demonstrate that.

- (faculty, Sex, Facebook account, chronic disease).

Table 3: Mean and the standard deviation and “T-test” of the effect (type of faculty, sex, availability of personal Facebook account, and suffering from chronic diseases) on the study sample responses

| Variables          | Categories        | Number | Mean  | Std. Deviation | t     | df  | Sig. |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|----------------|-------|-----|------|
| Faculty            | Human Faculties  | 300    | 2.65  | .955           | .985  | 850 | .325 |
|                    | Science Faculties| 552    | 2.58  | 1.071          |       |     |      |
| Sex                | Male              | 309    | 2.54  | 1.81           | 1.342 | 850 | .180 |
|                    | Female            | 543    | 2.64  | .935           |       |     |      |
| Facebook account   | Yes               | 814    | 2.59  | 1.022          | 1.438 | 850 | .151 |
|                    | No                | 38     | 2.84  | 1.211          |       |     |      |
| Chronic diseases   | Yes               | 40     | 3.24  | 1.367          | 4.054 | 850 | .000*|
|                    | No                | 812    | 2.57  | 1.003          |       |     |      |

Table (3) shows that there were no differences of statistical significance at the level of significance (\(\alpha = 0.05\)) attributed to the effect of (type of faculty, sex, availability of personal Facebook account, suffering from chronic diseases) on the study sample responses on the COVID-19 scale among the Hashemite University students. This result can be explained for every variable, separately. First, for the type of faculty (scientific or literary), there were no differences of statistical significance in the level of means of fear among the students. We can attribute that to the reality the virus imposes on the world as a whole. The clinical image of this virus nature is still unclear. There are random clinical experiments on the proposed treatments (Perez-Belmonte, et al., 2020). The circulated information about the pandemic is about its symptoms only, which is known to the public. Moreover, the world has not been able to find an effective vaccine for this virus. The doctors and scientists are still working to find the cure at fast pace (El Tabaa & El Tabaa, 2020; Singh, et al., 2020). Therefore, students of all fields of study...
perception of fear of covid-19 as a source of threat are the same. These results are in agreement with a Jordanian study conducted on students of medical and non-medical fields (Alzoubi, et al., 2020).

As for the variable of gender, which has no effect of statistical significance in the fear of COVID-19 for males and females, this can be attributed to the type of infection. The cases recorded included both sexes. This reason might explain the proximity level of fear in both sexes. In addition, male and female students have the same interests and inclinations. They are similar in several aspects.

Men and women, in any culture, are more similar than different in most behavioral dimensions. There might be more differences in the same sex more than between sexes. This thing is applicable to the special abilities and verbal intelligence and many other characteristics (Eagly, et al., 2004). In addition, students practice a unified behavioral role. Males and female are working under the umbrella of being academic student only. There are more than 95% of the university students without materialistic burdens or responsibilities, and with no family affiliations to their children. They have not made a family yet. They have not reached the role of parenthood, which might make them feel worried or concerned about their children. This result is in harmony with that of (Cao, et al., 2020). But it is in contrast with the study of (Reznik, et al., 2020). As for the variable (did the student have a personal Facebook account) which had no effect of statistical significance in the fear of COVID-19, the result can be explained in the light of the plethora of resources from which students can obtain any item of information about this pandemic, for example, the T.V or telephones application (WhatsApp). In addition, a student can be familiar with up to date information about the COVID-19, through his family, given that all families in Jordan have mobile phone by which students can operate news applications. Every person can make Facebook account easily (Neal, 2012). In the light of the Jordanian government measures, during the quarantine, students could share information and news about the daily statistics of the COVID-19 whether through official or non-official sources like the social media platforms, without need to have their own Facebook account. Often the circulated information via the Facebook is similar to that in both official resources to which every person can get. Therefore, it can be said that the emotional state of the fear of the COVID-19 is the same among the students. Moreover, the role of the social media in spreading fear and anxiety among people in the COVID-19s crisis cannot be ignored, especially, among the young people (Ahmad & Murad, 2020; Anzar.et al., 2020; Depoux, et al., 2020).

On another side, table (3) showed the existence of differences with statistical significance at level of significance ($\alpha = 0.05$) that was attributable to the variable (suffering from chronic diseases) in the study sample responses to the COVID-19 fear scale among the Hashemite University students. The differences were in favor of (yes) group, that’s those who suffered from chronic diseases.

This result can be explained in the light of circulated information regarding the physiological structure of the immune system which might be affected in case counter and destructive bodies like COVID-19 entered the body. As it is known, immune deficiency, on the part of some individuals makes them more likely to be infected than others (Sompayrac, 2015). This fact is known to the students having previous record with chronic disease, leading them to be more afraid of COVID infection, compared to their healthy counterparts. This result is consistent with the study (Bitan, et al., 2020; Naser, et al., 2020; Ozdin & Ozdin, 2020).

- (Academic year, religion, residence, social status, birth order, family income)

**Table 4:** The arithmetic means and standard deviations for the effect of (academic year, religion, place of residence, social status, birth order, and family income level) on the study sample responses.

| Variables       | Categories | Number | Mean  | Std. Deviation |
|-----------------|------------|--------|-------|----------------|
| Academic year   | First      | 187    | 2.57  | .985           |
|                 | The second | 210    | 2.60  | 1.071          |
|                 | The third  | 215    | 2.64  | 1.042          |
|                 | The fourth | 240    | 2.60  | 1.028          |
Table (4) shows a superficial discrepancy in mean and the standard deviation for the responses of the study sample on the scale of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students due to the difference of variable groups (academic year, religion, place of residence, social status, birth order, family income level). To clarify the significance of the statical differences in the arithmetic means, the Hexagonal Variance Analysis was used in Table (5).

Table 5: ANOVA-analysis of variance of the effect of (Academic year, Religion, residence, Social status, birth order, family income) on the study sample responses

| Source      | Type III Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F    | Sig.  |
|-------------|-------------------------|----|-------------|------|-------|
| Academic year | .871                    | 3  | .290        | .275 | .843  |
| Religion    | 2.873                   | 2  | 1.437       | 1.362| .257  |
| Residence   | 1.206                   | 2  | .603        | .572 | .565  |
| Social status| 4.723                   | 2  | 2.362       | 2.239| .107  |
| Birth order | 7.058                   | 3  | 2.353       | 2.230| .083  |
| Family income| 7.544                   | 2  | 3.772       | 3.576| .028* |
| Error       | 882.823                 | 837| 1.055       | 3.576| .028* |
| Total       | 905.258                 | 851|             |      |       |

Table (5) shows nonexistence of statistically significant differences at ($\alpha = 0.05$) attributable to the variables (academic year, religion, place of residence, social status, and order in birth) on the fear of the COVID-19 scale among the Hashemite University students.

To explain the relevant variable results as in Table (5) starting from the variable (academic year) There was no difference in the fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students in their different academic stages. This reason is that the students belong to the stage of youth as Erikson calls “the stage of youth” (Walker, 2012). Students in the first up to the fourth year in the university are close in age with similar needs, capacities and developmental abilities. On the other hand, we may find that they are also similar in their concerns, expectations, and their perceptions of themselves, the world and others. Moreover, university students of all ages realized well that the virus could pose a threat to the individual health. Findings of some studies indicated that fear of the COVID-19 was not exclusive to a specific age (Sakib, et al., 2020). This result came in contrast with the study of (Martinez- Lorca, et al.,
As for the variable of (religion), there were no differences of statistical significance for its effect in the fear of COVID-19. This finding may be attributed to the concept of “pandemic”. The COVID-19 effects have involved the whole world with no discrimination between races or religions (Isiko, 2020; Shibambu & Egunjobi, 2020).

As for the variable (place of residence), there were no differences of statistical significance in the fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students, according to the place of residence (city, camp, countryside, village). This result can be explained in the light of the small size of the area of Jordan where the village residents can reach the city in short time. Moreover, there is geographical proximity between the villages and cities, for example, Sukna Camp is adjacent to the villages and countryside. So the student residing in the city can catch the disease in case of going shopping or doing any outdoor activity. In short, place of residence might not be medium factor in catching COVID-19 and this result is consistent with the study (Bakioglu, et al., 2020), but it is inconsistent with the study (Fitzpatrick, et al., 2020) which showed that there was no difference in the fear of COVID-19, according to the place of residence or the place of infection.

The result that there was no difference in the fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University, according to the variable of social status (single, married, fiancée, divorced, widower) can be explained due to the culture, traditions, and values governing the Jordanian society. It is commonly agreed upon, that Jordanians keep their historical heritage which promotes the principles of solidarity support. Showing mercy and family bondage. This comes as a reflection of Islam which constitutes the basic religion in Jordan. Under these noble principles, there is no difference between the single and married or the divorced and widower in terms of the fear of COVID-19, due to the fact that each one of them has the same feelings towards his life and that of his relatives. The single, divorced, widower, or even the married person might not have children, yet they still have family affiliations.

The family and the origin family they feel worried about them self, their families’ relatives, in case of any harm or distress. As commonly known, the family bondage is strong and deep-rooted in the Jordanian society and that it takes the form of close, broad and profound physical contacts. Hence, fear or worry about infection has strong existence among the members of the Jordanian society, regardless of their social status. This result came consistent with the study (Blbas, et al.,2020; Vahedian-Azimi, et al.,2020). Yet it doesn’t conform with the study (Doshi, et al., 2020).

On the other hand, there was no difference of statistical significance in the fear of COVID-19 among the Hashemite University students, according to the variable (birth order) which is defined as the order of the individual according to age among sibling’s. Alder, a theorist in the analytical psychology, sees that birth order constitutes the base of psychological component of the individual personality, being affected by the parental treatment methods from childhood. Therefore, the individual feels, behaves, and thinks, according to life style ones adopted in his family environment (Carlson, et al., 2011). Feeling of fear or threat from COVID-19 in a member of the family, regardless of birth order, is affected or influenced by the general state of the family feelings. Moreover, the (WHO) has described covid-19 as a pandemic (Anjorin, 2020; Helmy, 2020; Patra, et al., 2020). due to its extensive widespread, where its cases involved all the world societies, its psychological and materialistic effect has not been exclusive to an important or ordinary or lonely person. Hence, the students with different birth order had approximate levels of fear of COVID-19.

As for the result which came to the contrary, according to the previous variables, it may be attributed to the existence of differences of statistical significance at α=0.05 it is attributed to the variable (family income level) on the COVID fear Scale among the Hashemite University students. To show the dual differences of statistical differences among the arithmetic means, the post comparisons were used in a “Scheffe’ Test” as shown in Table (6).
Table 6: Post- comparisons in a “Scheffe’ Test” Method way of the effect of family income level on the study sample responses

| Categories | Mean | High | Medium | Low  |
|------------|------|------|--------|------|
| High       | 2.26 | 1    |        |      |
| Medium     | 2.61 | .34  | 1      |      |
| Low        | 2.71 | .45  | .11    | 1    |

As seen in the table above, there are differences of statistical significance ($\alpha = 0.05$) for the groups of the variable (family income level) Between the low group from one hand and the high group from the other hand. Differences were in favor of the low group.

This result can be explained in the light of the economic aftereffects caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is clear that the study sample included the Hashemite University students who depended on their families for the costs of their education especially their study fees. Therefore, it is expected that the students in the low income group would fear of the COVID -19, especially, if the family breadwinner belongs to the day-to-day workers. The group of day-to-day workers was affected by the long-period lockdown measures taken by the Jordanian government. As this group doesn’t have fixed or constant income they felt worried and stressed about the way they could secure the family monthly-requirements. This result was in harmony with the study (Mahmud, et al., 2020; Mani, et al., 2020). In addition, fear of poverty is an overt threat to many people (Kacmarova, et al., 2019).

4. Conclusion

All Jordanian society spectra have been affected by the COVID-19. In the context of the higher education, in particular, the university students have experienced government measures leading to online education. Hence, we have to understand the psychological responses and the emotional state of the students regarding the level of fear of the COVID -19 in the light of some important variables like gender and others. This is the aim of this study which constitutes an essential addition to the scientific research to study this multi-dimensional phenomenon. The study results revealed a medium level of fear from the COVID-19 which might later on increase or decrease in the light of the cases that might be witnessed in Jordan.

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