The Effects of having Foreign Housekeepers on Syrian Family (A Study in Damascus)

Dr. Amal Mu'ti

Abstract

This study deals dealing with the social situation of the foreigner maid at homes.

This phenomena has spread in our Arabic society in general and in our Syrian community in particular, this matter has been accompanied with the new demands of the family.

The society has developed new consuming lifestyle, both individually and socially.

The members' needs have been increasing especially in this economic and social stage of our Syrian society.

Many negative results have been reflected on families and children, because family is the first basic social institution which is responsible for a child's growing up especially at his first three years when his character is being formed.

The problem lies at this point, we must recognize that role which those maids are playing.

It is known that a child stays attached to people who care about him and raise him.

_

^{*} Department of Sociology – Faculty of Arts- Damascus University For the paper in Arabic see pages (313-360)

Therefore, such a maid is transforming her culture, traditions and language to our children.

This study is trying to describe these negative aspects which have been reflected on children and families in particular, and society in general.

The research has many results, some of them are:

- 1- The maid lives for a period of time in the house, and won't take the responsibility for raising the child in the family, the child also needs to be loved and taken care of and needs tenderness that can only be found with the parents.
- 2- The language difference between the maid and the family will be reflected on the members of the family in a way or another.
- 3- One of the main duties of the maid is to look after the elderly in the house, because the existence of the maid in the house to look after the elderly participates in providing the safety and the unity of the family.

Damascus University, Literature College, Sociology Department.