



## Osra Research Grant Award

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Mothers in Lebanon: Unraveling their Family Structure, Characteristics, Demands &amp; Resources of Support</b>	
Duration	One Year	
Research Area	Social Sciences	
Speciality:	Sociology	
Sub Speciality:	Special Topics (Gender studies; Social issues; Family studies, Social work)	
Project Description:	<p>Emerging evidence confirms that the structure, stability and functioning of the family into which a child is born and develops, present both advantages and disadvantages that subsequently affect cognitive, socio-emotional and physical health outcomes. Demographic transitions are phenomena that have recently encompassed, at varying degrees of intensity, the entire Arab world. The Arab family is ever changing with modernization influencing social and cultural norms; yet it remains unique since the boundary between the individual and the family unit is blurred, with individual- family interdependence being predominant in the Arab region. Lebanon, due to its socio-economic and religious diversity, yet unique social structure, presents an opportunity to understand the Arab family practices and dynamics. The overall aim of this proposed project is to study the Lebanese family at the national and governorate levels by surveying mothers who are delivering at the hospitals of the National Collaborative Perinatal Neonatal Network (NCPNN). Specifically, the objectives are to: 1) Describe structure and characteristics of the family, 2) Assess changes over time, 3) Determine work and family related demands, 4) Describe resources of support available to the mother, 5) Assess mothers' perceptions of areas of priorities for policies and programs that promote wellness of their family, 6) Determine predictors associated with these perceived priorities. The study will employ the NCPNN that captures around 30% of the deliveries that occur in Lebanon by collecting data from 30 hospitals located across the 6 governorates of Lebanon. The proposed study will include a retrospective and a prospective component. The retrospective component will assess the changes in the structure of the family over time (NCPNN data for the years 2001-2015). The prospective component will include data that is routinely gathered by the NCPNN, in addition to the information required for the purpose of this study which will be collected from mothers who deliver at the NCPNN hospitals over 6 months (June 2016-November 2016). Work and family related demands along with sources and extent of informal and formal support available to mothers will be assessed. In addition, mothers will be asked to rank, from a specified list, their top three priorities for policies and programs that promote overall wellness of their families. Descriptive and regression analyses will be performed to assess differences in structure, characteristics, work and family related demands and families' resources of support across the different governorates. Regression trend analysis will be conducted to assess changes in family structure and characteristics over time. Multi-variable logistic regression models to determine the independent predictors for mothers' choice of priorities for policies and programs that promote wellness of their families will be performed.</p>	
<b>Key Investigator(s)</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Role</b>
Dr. Khalid Yunis	American University of Beirut	Lead PI
Prof. Hala Tamim	York University	PI