

# **The Relation between NGO Mechanisms and the Realization of Social Support for Al-Gharimat**

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### **Abstract:**

This study describes the mechanisms used by NGOs to realize social support for Al-Gharimat. These mechanisms include communication, partnership, and coordination. The study sought to determine the level by which NGO mechanisms achieves social support for Al-Gharimat. There were three main study hypotheses. The most important hypothesis was "The level of mechanisms used by NGOs for realizing social support for Al-Gharimat is high". The study uncovered the importance of the role played by NGOs in addressing the problems of Al-Gharimat and providing them with social support. The study validated this hypothesis; finding that the level of mechanisms used by NGOs is achieving social support for Al-Gharimat is high. The study asserted that organizations maintain communication for addressing the problems of women imprisoned for debt. Organizations conduct joint trainings for addressing those problems. Further communication is represented in maintaining a joint database for facilitating the exchange of information between concerned organizations. This supports the follow-up on services provided and prevents doubling of effort in addressing the problems of Al-Gharimat. The study also stressed the importance of the NGO's role in this regard.

### **Key Words:**

The concept of mechanisms - the concept of social support - the concept of Al-Gharimat.

### **Introduction:**

Poverty is a chief obstacle to building societies, achieving comprehensive development, and raising economic growth rates. Poverty threatens human security and poses a risk to peace and political stability. It generates a fertile environment for various forms of deviation and extremism to grow, targeting countries' hopes and aspirations for progress and development (Mabrouk: 2009, p.3). Baker Stan noted that poverty in poor areas is the main obstacle to

development. He stressed the need for programs to help the poor, especially women, to meet their needs and solve their problems (Stan, 1998, p.23)

Women's poverty leads to poor social and economic conditions due to their lack of skills to deal with market forces, their poor capacities to improve their living conditions, and their inability to tackle poverty.

Edward's study signalled the link between poverty and lack of skills and vulnerability among the poor (Edward: 2003, p. 323).

Poverty prevents adaptation to the economic and social conditions and life requirements, which are less available to some families in society. Poor women may resort to specific methods to meet life demands of life, pushed towards those methods by difficult circumstances, leading to their imprisonment. Imprisonment does not only affect the prisoner alone but also affects her family, which experiences instability and burdens (Abdel-Sadiq: 2008, p. 10).

This is in line with Berko's study (2009, p. 54), which identified the social factors leading to criminal acts among women. The study found the main factors to be low economic level of women, poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy. The study stressed the necessity of literacy, legal awareness, and increasing the number of associations caring for women prisoners and providing them with job opportunities.

According to a statistical report issued by the Planning and Research Department of the Prison Service, a new category of female prisoners emerged called Al-Gharimat. These women were imprisoned after signing trust receipts for traders when purchasing furniture or equipment and could not pay back the traders for a long time They differ from the cases of murder, drugs. (Misr El- Kheir Association: Association Publications, 2017). The number of this category reached 3000 women (Public Authority of Prisons, 2011).

The statistics also indicate an increase in the number of Al-Gharimat in Cairo and Giza, where they reached (1223) from 2010 to 2013. (Ministry of Interior: Department of Planning and Statistical Research, 2013) Thus, society is keen to provide the Al-Gharimat category with programs for meeting their needs to help them cope with their problems (Niyazi: 1996, p.17).

Abdel Mordy's study (2013) indicated the relation between the provision of social program represented in financial assistance, job opportunities, training, and small projects, and the economic empowerment of women prisoners of poverty.

Al-Gharimat face many life pressures as imprisonment might lead the family's disownment of the woman prisoner or the family's refusal to visit her. This may be due to the family's rejection of the prisoner or the lack of financial resources in the family to make the visits. In both cases, it leads to the prisoner's anxiety and sense of isolation. The prisoner and her family also suffer from pressures and problems after her release such as concern, disruption of social relations with the surrounding systems, and family instability (Abdel Maksoud: 2013, p.17). This is in line with Lynette Marie West's study (2001) which indicated that the family faces a number of problems as a result of the prison crisis: isolation, inability to achieve family goals, poor relations with others, and poor social communication skills to address these problems.

Poor families suffer from a range of problems and pressures resulting from situations that affect all family members to varying degrees. These problems cause a range of unsatisfied physical, social and psychological needs leading, in turn, to a sense of vulnerability. In this case, provision of services and social support from surrounding governmental and non-governmental organizations becomes that only way through which this vulnerability is addressed. Social support can play a preventive role for poor families, examining the situations they experience, addressing the causes, and improving results (Mabrouk: 2009, p. 6).

Stephen's study (2001) focused on identifying the linkages between government and civil society organizations and the importance of those linkages in achieving social and economic support for poor communities. The study results indicated that the government is working to strengthen cooperative relations with civil society organizations to be able to achieve their goals of addressing the problem of the poor successfully

Thus, it is clear that NGOs have an effective role in achieving social support for Al-Gharimat. This is consistent with Mahmoud's study (2007), which dealt with the contribution of civil society organizations in mitigating the severity of poverty problems among women. The study found that civil society organizations play an important role in mitigating the severity of poverty problems among women through provision of financial assistance, grants, and loans for establish small projects for women to help them face difficult life requirements. The study advised on the necessity for cooperation, coordination, and communication between NGOs and governmental organizations to address the problems of poverty among women.

Evidence from the literature review informs social workers that payday loans may improve consumer well-being when used to smooth short-term income shocks but may significantly harm consumer well-being when used repeatedly to meet long-term financial needs. Given that the majority of payday loan users are repeat users, the majority of consumers who use payday loans may be worse off from payday loan use rather than better off. (King, U., & Parrish, L. (2007).

There are a number of things that social workers can and should do to alleviate and prevent the negative consequences of using payday loans. Social workers should address information asymmetry between consumers and payday lenders. At the micro level, social workers can educate potential payday loan consumers to be more informed about the true effective rate of interest on loans and the significance of APRs, especially APRs converted to dollar amounts per various loan maturation terms and to enhance financial knowledge and behaviour (Pappalardo, J. K. (2012)

This is in line with Louis' study (2004), which noted the importance of helping low-income families, especially female-headed households, where women face various challenges. The study asserted the necessity of providing social support for these women through awareness, training, and access to adequate information on how women can invest in their capabilities and available resources.

Abdel Salam (2008) believes that social support is an important source of effective social backing that women need. The level of social support affects women's level of satisfaction. Therefore, women imprisoned for debt should receive all kinds of social support needed to reactivate their role in society.

Jennifer's study (2008) indicated that the provision of social support for women, especially in light of the increasing social and economic pressures, rendering this category the most vulnerable, will only be achieved through non-governmental organizations.

In light of the above, it became clear that NGOs play an important and effective role in addressing the problems of Al-Gharimat. They utilize a variety of methods and mechanisms to realize social support for this group. NGOs have their own techniques that may or may vary from one organization to another. These mechanisms might result in the satisfaction of beneficiaries and their families. Some mechanisms however may not be suitably effective, which requires further assessment for their effectiveness. Therefore, this study seeks to determine the relationship between the mechanisms that NGOs use and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat.

### **Theoretical directions of the study: - Feminist theory**

Feminist theory address specific issues and ways of understanding women, The theory and approach aim to increase consciousness of the oppression of women and in turn provide avenues by which women can gain control of their lives. Feminist theories have the capacity to play a greater role in enabling social work practice to become more effectively anti-oppressive and inclusive. For this to occur, academics and practitioners have to validate women's lives by incorporating into their work the conceptual frameworks and experiential knowledges that feminists have highlighted. These include the differentiated concepts of interdependence, mutuality, reciprocity and citizenship. Additionally, they have to recognise women as agents with the ability to determine their own futures.

**feminist theory concepts relevant to social work practice are: interconnectedness, reciprocity, mutuality, ambiguity, power and citizenship.**

1. Interconnectedness signals the interdependence that exists between people the ties that bind them together in mutuality and reciprocity.
2. Mutuality and reciprocity are the building blocks of egalitarian relationships for they permit each person involved in an exchange to contribute from her/his specific strengths to the interaction. Acting together, interdependency, mutuality and reciprocity give birth to social solidarity.
3. Ambiguity is illustrated in women's roles as carers when women feel the double bind of being responsible for others and wanting to help, but also wishing to be free of the responsibility and focus on themselves.
4. Citizenship draws upon interconnectedness, mutuality and reciprocity to build social solidarities through which individuals accept responsibility for each other and commit themselves to a jointly defined common good to ensure that the well-being of one is a concern of all.(Lena Dominelli,2002)

### **Objectives of the study:**

1. Determining the level of mechanisms used by NGOs for realizing social support for Al-Gharimat.
2. Determining the level of dimensions for realizing social support for Al-Gharimat.

3. Identifying obstacles facing NGOs in realizing social support for Al-Gharimat.
4. Providing suggestions for activating the mechanisms used by NGOs in realizing social support for Al-Gharimat.

### **Study hypotheses:**

**First hypothesis:** "The level of mechanisms used by NGOs for realizing social support for Al-Gharimat is high"

This hypothesis can be tested through the following variables:

1. Communication
2. Partnership
3. Coordination

**Second hypothesis:** "The dimensions for realizing achieving social support for Al-Gharimat are of a medium level".

This hypothesis can be tested through the following variables:

1. Legal support
2. Economic support
3. Social support

**Third hypothesis:** There is a statistically significant correlation between the mechanisms used by NGOs and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat.

### **The importance of the study:**

1. The increasing attention for improving the situation of women, especially poor women, both locally and globally.
2. The social work profession in general, The community practice in particular plays a role in achieving The role of NGOs in achieving community support for Al-Gharimat women. This is through NGOs' utilization of their tools and the skills of their social workers to activate their social support mechanisms.

### **Study concepts:**

#### **1. Concept of mechanisms:**

The procedural definition for mechanisms in this study is:

1. Methods used by NGOs to realize social support for Al-Gharimat.
2. These methods are related to partnership, coordination, and communication between these organizations to realize social support for Al-Gharimat.
3. These mechanisms aim to effect social, economic and legal improvements to solve the problems of Al-Gharimat.

#### **2. Concept of social support:**

The procedural definition of social support in this study is:

1. Provision systems of surrounding environment to Al-Gharimat, and providing support to alleviate life pressures. This is represented in (social care, legal support, financial assistance, and others).
2. All the support, material or moral, that the prisoner received.

3. Such support is provided through NGOs.
4. The support provided aims to help the woman overcome obstacles and problems.

### **3. Concept of Al-Gharimat:**

The researchers identified of Al-Gharimat as those women who became indebted to cover for life necessities and could not pay back their debtors in time resulting in their imprisonment.

The procedural definition of Al-Gharimat in this study is:

1. Women imprisoned because they failed to pay their debts in due time and were released after repaying their debts.
2. Women suffering from bad economic conditions forcing them to sign debt checks to be able to overcome said conditions and meet their basic needs.
3. Women that need economic, legal, or health services to meet life requirements after release from imprisonment.
4. They receive services from NGOs participating in the women prisoners of poverty projects.

### **Methodological Procedures of the Study:**

#### **1- Type of the Study:**

This study is a descriptive study. It aims to determine the relation between the mechanisms used by NGOs and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat.

#### **2- Methodology:**

This study is based on the scientific method using census social survey with the board members and staff of Misr El Kheir Foundation, and sample social survey with beneficiaries of the Foundation's services.

#### **3- Study Tools:**

1. Questionnaire used with staff, social workers, and board members of Misr El Kheir Foundation (N=38).
2. Questionnaire form with a sample of beneficiaries (N=55)

#### **Tool Validity:**

The researchers applied content validity on the tool through review of literature and theoretical frameworks, followed by analyzing the literature, research, and studies to determine the different dimensions related to the problem of the.

The researchers also applied face validity on the tool. They presented the tool to five faculty members at the Faculty of Social Work, Helwan University. Consensus reached 80% on the tool validity. The researchers eliminated some statements, and reformulated others, then produced the tool in its final form.

**Tool Reliability:**

- Reliability of the tool: Statistical Reliability of the tool was test in a sample 10 individual from officials using Alpha Cronbach coefficient. The reliability coefficient was 0.82 ,A second test was used to determine the tool reliability. The researchers used Brown-Spearman split-half methods, where the reliability coefficient reached 0.86, which is considered a suitable level of statistical reliability.
- Statistical stability was also carried out for another sample of the beneficiaries (10) vocabulary that meet the same conditions applicable to the study sample using of Alpha Kronbach coefficient The reliability coefficient was 0.86. which is considered a suitable level of statistical reliability.

**4- Study Fields:**

**1. Location Field:** The study was implemented in Misr El Kheir Foundation in Giza Governorate. The Foundation was chosen based on the following criteria:

1. A large number Al-Gharimat frequenting the Foundation
2. The Foundation is considered one of the first organizations to address the problems of Al-Gharimat and contributing to their release.
3. Presence of a large number of social workers in the Foundation.

**2. Human Field:**

1. Census survey with board members, staff, and social workers in Misr El Kheir Foundation (N=38) conducted with all available individuals.
2. The sample frame includes women of Al-Gharimat released from prisons, their numbers were (175) , then a purposive sample of (55) women was selected according to the following conditions:
  - Women who have been imprisoned for defaulting on debt, released after the debt was paid.
    - Married women who are caring their children.
    - Women who receive services from the institution.
    - Women who are exposed to economic conditions make them resort to signing checks to address these conditions.

**3. Time Field:**

The field data collection was conducted from 15/7/2018 to 25/10/2018.

### Difficulties facing researchers and how they were addressed

1. Difficulties related to gathering data from board members, staff, and social works in the NGO because of either travel, lack of time, or lack of cooperation with researchers in filling the questionnaires. The researchers were able to address this problem by repeated visits to the NGO and settling with the number of questionnaires implemented.
2. Difficulties related to the NGOs, where some NGOs refused to cooperate with the researchers, who were able to address this problem by approaching alternate NGOs working in the field of service provision for Al-Gharimat.

### Results:

#### First Axis: Mechanisms Used by NGOs for Realization of Social Support for Al-Gharimat:

##### 1. Communication:

Table (1) Communication as one of the Mechanisms Used by NGOs for Realizing Social Support for Al-Gharimat as Determined by Officials. (N=38)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	Communication exists between the organization and other organizations involved in providing services for Al-Gharimat.	2.45	0.5	4
2	Joint meetings are conducted between officials in organizations for addressing the problems of Al-Gharimat and realizing social support for them.	2.45	0.5	4
3	A joint information network exists between organizations concerned with the problems of Al-Gharimat, which enables provides continuous inter-communication between organizations.	2.55	0.5	3
4	Joint training is organized for staff of concerned organization to address the problems of Al-Gharimat.	2.63	0.49	2
5	The organization solicits the support of media to inform the society of the problems of Al-Gharimat and finding solutions to them.	2.89	0.31	1
6	The organization establishes channels of communication with decision-makers in society to address the problems of Al-Gharimat and to realize social support for them.	2.45	0.6	5
<b>The Variable As a Whole</b>		<b>2.57</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>High Level</b>

In the first ranking came “the organization solicits the support of media to inform the society of the problems of Al-Gharimat and finding solutions to them” with an arithmetic mean of 2.89.

In the last rank came “the organization establishes channels of communication with decision-makers in society to address the problems of Al-Gharimat and to realize social support for them” with an arithmetic mean of 2.45.

These results may be due to NGOs seeking to achieve social awareness, changing the demeaning view and improving the perspective towards Al-Gharimat through broadcast and print media.

These results are in line with the studies of Abdel El Maksoud (2009) and Mahmoud (2007), both of which recommended the necessity of cooperation, coordination, and communication between NGOs for tackling poverty among women.

## 2. Partnership:

Table (2) Partnership As One of the Mechanisms Used by NGOs for Realizing Social Support for Al-Gharimat as Determined by Officials. (N=38)

Sr.	Statements	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	The organization prepares joint reports with other organizations on the issue of Al-Gharimat.	2.26	0.64	5
2	Joint research is carried out by the organization and other NGOs to determine the actual needs of Al-Gharimat to achieve social support for them.	2.16	0.72	6
3	The organization facilitates exchange of information with other organizations concerned with the problem in order to address it in the Egyptian society.	2.5	0.56	2
4	The organization cooperates with other organizations in monitoring services provided for Al-Gharimat in order to achieve community support for them.	2.45	0.55	3
5	The organization seeks to cooperate with the media to spread the culture of poverty eradication and to solve the problems of Al-Gharimat.	2.92	0.27	1
6	The organization is keen to sign cooperation protocols with other organizations to implement joint plans for the benefit of Al-Gharimat.	2.32	0.57	4
<b>The Variable as a Whole</b>		<b>2.43</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>High Level</b>

In the first ranking came “the organization seeks to cooperate with the media to spread the culture of poverty eradication and to solve the problems of Al-Gharimat” with an arithmetic mean of 2.92.

Lastly came “joint research is carried out by the organization and other NGOs to determine the actual needs of Al-Gharimat to achieve social support for them” with an arithmetic mean of 2.16.

This confirms Jerald's and Hage's study (1993), which indicated that there are several forms for cooperation between organizations and the effect of these forms on the relations between organizations. Pedro's study (2006) indicated that cooperation between the services provided by NGOs contribute to improving the lives of poor families and lead to activating the efforts of organizations. Wilson's study (2010) also signified that cooperation and partnership between organizations are useful in addressing problems, and that successful cooperation depends on positive relations between partners through which research and programs for addressing problems are designed.

### 3. Coordination:

Table (3) Coordination As One of the Mechanisms Used by NGOs for Realizing Social Support for Al-Gharimat as Determined by Officials (N=38)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	The organization formed a special committee to coordinate with other organization involved in the care for Al-Gharimat to realize social support for them.	2.26	0.6	4
2	The organization makes decisions that do not conflict with decisions made by other organizations working in the field of care for Al-Gharimat.	2.53	0.56	2
3	The organization provides a database to prevent doubling of services among organizations providing care for Al-Gharimat.	2.55	0.5	1
4	The organization seeks to achieve common goals with other organization providing care for Al-Gharimat as per their needs.	2.39	0.55	3
5	The organization exchanges resources with other organizations involved in the care of Al-Gharimat.	1.97	0.54	6
6	Experts and specialists are exchanged among organizations providing care for Al-Gharimat to realize social support for them.	2	0.57	5
7	Developing inter-organizational action plans to achieve social support for Al-Gharimat.	1.95	0.57	7
<b>The Variable as a Whole</b>		<b>2.24</b>	<b>0.38</b>	Medium Level

In the first ranking came “the organization provides a database to prevent doubling of services among organizations providing care for Al-Gharimat” with an arithmetic mean of 2.55.

In the lowest rank came “developing inter-organizational action plans to achieve social support for Al-Gharimat” with an arithmetic mean of 1.95. Coordination among organizations leads to exchange of experiences between them, as the objectives of coordination constitute developing successful policies, plans, and programs between exiting organizations in society.

The study (James & Halton K., 1991) highlighted the importance of coordination between organizations and each other in order to implement projects and that the coordination process has a positive impact on the establishment of public projects. The study of Jerald and Hage (1993) by strengthening the foundations of relations and interactions and links between each other in order to achieve integration between these organizations.

Second Axis: Dimensions of Achieving Social Support for Al-Gharimat

### 1. Legal Support:

Sr.	Statements	Beneficiaries (N=55)			Officials (N=38)		
		Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	NGOs receive and examine complaints .	3	0	1	2.97	0.16	1
2	NGOs provide legal counsel .	2.96	0.19	2	2.76	0.43	5
3	Sending fact-finding missions to investigate the credibility of the complaint .	2.89	0.31	3	2.68	0.47	7
4	Classification of complaints and analysis of content	2.8	0.4	4	2.82	0.39	4
5	Deploying lawyers to attend investigations and prosecutions	2.58	0.5	5	2.71	0.46	6
6	Communicating with concerned authorities on matters related to Al-Gharimat.	2.51	0.57	7	2.84	0.37	3
7	Seeking reconciliation with debtors	2.47	0.63	8	2.87	0.34	2
8	Organizing raising awareness seminars for Al-Gharimat.	2.58	0.6	6	2.5	0.8	8
The Dimension As a Whole		<b>2.73</b>	<b>0.23</b>	High Level	<b>2.77</b>	<b>0.31</b>	High Level

**The results of table (4) present methods of legal support as determined by officials and beneficiaries:**

In the first rank came “NGOs receive and examine complaints” with an arithmetic mean of 2.97. This result is in line with the perspective of beneficiaries. These results reflect the attention that NGOs give to the problems of Al-Gharimat and solving them. This is also in accordance with the theoretical determinants of the study.

At the end of the legal support methods from the perspective of the beneficiaries came “seeking reconciliation with debtors” with an arithmetic mean of 2.47. From the perspective of officials, in the last rank came “organizing raising awareness seminars for Al-Gharimat” with an arithmetic mean of 2.5. These results are in line with the recommendation of Mezouz Berko (2009) that providing women with literacy and spread legal awareness among women are necessary to lessen crime among women.

This is consistent with the studies of Amira Abdel Fattah and Abdel Hakim El Shorbagy who asserted that many Al-Gharimat suffer from legal problems, and recommended the establishment of program for improving the legal conditions of Al-Gharimat.

The results of the table are also in line with Bateman-Neil (2000) who stated that also support skills include legal research and the ability to identify new definitions for legal points for the clients’ benefit, and instituting lawsuits.

It is also in line with Egyptian Organization for Human Rights which indicated that organizations use various mechanisms, including receiving complaints, processing them, sending fact-finding missions, if necessary, to ascertain the credibility of the complaint and the information included therein, attending investigations and prosecutions. In addition, this is in line with feminist theory stating that organizations use several methods and mechanisms to determine their future inputs in order to achieve higher effectiveness.

## 2. Economic Support:

Table (5) Economic Support for Al-Gharimat

Sr.	Statements	Beneficiaries (N=55)			Officials (N=38)		
		Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	Repayment of debts for Al-Gharimat.	2.45	0.66	1	2.79	0.53	2
2	Providing one-time financial assistance for Al-Gharimat in need	1.91	0.78	4	2.79	0.41	1
3	Providing monthly financial assistance Al-Gharimat in need .	1.53	0.6	8	1.84	0.89	8
4	Providing suitable employment opportunities for Al-Gharimat.	1.78	0.57	7	1.95	0.8	4
5	Helping Al-Gharimat set up small projects.	1.91	0.62	3	1.92	0.75	5
6	Enrolling Al-Gharimat in vocational training centers	1.95	0.56	2	1.89	0.76	6
7	Organization is keen to establish exhibitions to market the products of Al-Gharimat.	1.82	0.55	6	1.89	0.8	7
8	Providing affordable loans to Al-Gharimat.	1.85	0.56	5	2.03	0.75	3
<b>The Dimension As a Whole</b>		<b>1.9</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>Medium Level</b>	<b>2.14</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>Medium Level</b>

The results of table (5) present methods of economic support as determined by officials and beneficiaries:

In the first rank came “providing one-time financial assistance for Al-Gharimat in need” with an arithmetic mean of 2.79. For beneficiaries, the first rank was “repayment of debts of Al-Gharimat” with an arithmetic mean of 2.45. The researchers believe that this reflects the concern of NGOs to protect Al-Gharimat, to pay their debts, and to improve their economic situation. Women have the right to care and well-being.

At the end of the economic support methods for Al-Gharimat as determined by officials and beneficiaries came “providing monthly financial assistance Al-Gharimat in need” with an arithmetic mean of 1.84. This might be due to the lack of resources necessary to provide economic support for Al-Gharimat or lack of funding or lack of experience among government agencies in the field of productive families, small projects or microloans. This is in line with the studies of Berko, Abdel Latif, and Fathy (2008), and Hassan (2016), and Stan. These studies stressed the necessity of providing a means of livelihood for the poor and Al-Gharimat, which was cut off due to their absence. It also asserted the necessity of providing them with work opportunities, programs for the unemployed, and establishing development projects in poor areas. The researchers believe that Al-Gharimat are in need for assistance and must be cared for by both governmental and non-governmental organizations. This is in line with the feminist theory which emphasizes the importance to improve welfare services for women.

### 3. Social Support:

Table (6) Social Support for Al-Gharimat

Sr.	Statements	Beneficiaries (N=55)			Officials (N=38)		
		Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	Contributing to satisfying some of the basic needs of families of Al-Gharimat.	2.58	0.53	1	2.21	0.58	2
2	Providing Al-Gharimat with a sense of belonging.	2.53	0.5	2	2.08	0.54	6
3	Helping Al-Gharimat to cope with her family's problems.	2.4	0.49	3	2.21	0.62	3
4	Raising community awareness on the rights of Al-Gharimat.	2.25	0.55	7	2.37	0.49	1
5	Helping Al-Gharimat improve her social relationship with the surrounding persons.	2.16	0.46	8	2.11	0.61	5
6	Helping Al-Gharimat to communicate with her family members.	2.25	0.44	6	2.08	0.59	7

Sr.	Statements	Beneficiaries (N=55)			Officials (N=38)		
		Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
7	Helping Al-Gharimat play their roles in the family.	2.33	0.64	4	2.03	0.54	8
8	Examining and solving the problems of Al-Gharimat.	2.27	0.59	5	2.16	0.59	4
<b>The Dimension As a Whole</b>		<b>2.35</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>High Level</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>Medium Level</b>

The results of table (6) present methods of social support as determined by officials and beneficiaries:

In the first rank came “raising community awareness on the rights of Al-Gharimat “with an arithmetic mean of 2.37 from the perspective of officials,. The researchers believe that this is due to the NGOs’ acknowledgment of the importance of raising community awareness on the rights of this group and their reintegration in their communities. From the perspective of beneficiaries, in the first rank came “contributing to satisfying some of the basic needs of families of Al-Gharimat” with an arithmetic mean of 2.58.

At the end of the social support methods for Al-Gharimat from the perspective of beneficiaries came helping the prisoner improve her social relationship with the surrounding persons” with an arithmetic mean of 2.16. The low ranking of this method does not reflect low importance. This is consistent with Doaa Abdel Hamid (2012) who stated that Al-Gharimat lose social relations with relatives and friends because of their imprisonment, which requires improving her relations with surrounding people. Lastly, from the perspective of officials, the last rank was “helping women prisoners play their roles in the family” with an arithmetic mean of 2.03. Helping the woman and supporting her to play her role in the family mitigates the effects of situations she is exposed to and helps her deal with the causes as consistent with Mabrouk’s study (2009).

This is consistent with the studies of Abdel Seddik, Abdel Maqsood, Fayed (2006), and Abdel Salam (2008). These studies focused on the fact that social support is one of the sources of social influence that determines the Al-Gharimat relationship with the network of social relations surrounding her.

**Third Axis : Testing the Study Hypotheses**

3-1 – Testing the first study hypothesis "The level of mechanisms used by NGOs for realizing social support for Al-Gharimat is high"

Table (7) Level of NGO Mechanisms in the Realization of Social Support for Al-Gharimat (N=38)

Sr .	Mechanisms	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Level	Ranking
1	Communication	2.57	0.38	High	1
2	Partnership	2.43	0.42	High	2
3	Coordination	2.24	0.38	Medium	3
<b>Total Mechanisms</b>		<b>2.41</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>High Level</b>	

The table above reveals that:

- The level of NGO mechanisms for achieving social support for Al-Gharimat, as determined by officials, is high, with an arithmetic mean of 2.41. The indicators as per the ranking of arithmetic mean are: in the first rank was communication with a mean of 2.57, in the second rank was partnership with a mean of 2.43, and in the third rank was coordination with a mean of 2.24. This proves the validity of the first hypothesis "the level of NGO mechanisms for achieving social support for Al-Gharimat is high."

3-2 – Testing the second study hypothesis "The dimensions for realizing achieving social support for Al-Gharimat are of a medium level"

Table (8) Level of Dimension of Realization of Social Support for Al-Gharimat

Sr.	Dimensions	Beneficiaries (N=55)				Officials (N=38)			
		Mean	Standard Deviation	Level	Rank	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level	Rank
1	Legal Support	2.73	0.23	High	1	2.77	0.31	1	High
2	Economic Support	1.9	0.42	Medium	3	2.14	0.54	3	Medium
3	Social Support	2.35	0.36	High	2	2.15	0.39	2	Medium
<b>All Dimensions</b>		<b>2.32</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>Medium Level</b>		<b>2.35</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>High Level</b>	

The table above reveals that:

- The dimensions of achieving social support for Al-Gharimat, as defined by beneficiaries, is of medium level medium, where the arithmetic mean is 2.32. The indicators as per the arithmetic mean were: in the first rank was legal support with a mean of 2.73. In the second rank was social support with a mean of 2.35, and in the third rank was economic support with a mean of 1.9. This proves the

validity of the second hypothesis of the study that "the dimensions of achieving social support for Al-Gharimat is of medium level.

- The dimensions of achieving social support for Al-Gharimat, as determined by officials, is of a high level with an arithmetic mean of 2.35. The indicators as per arithmetic average were: in the rank was legal support with a mean of 2.77, in the second rank was social support with a mean on 2.15, and in the third rank was economic support with a mean of 2.14.

3-3 – Testing the third study hypothesis “There is a statistically significant correlation between the mechanisms used by NGOs and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat”.

Table (9) Analysis of simple regression in the relationship between the mechanisms of the NGOs and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat N=38

Independent Variable	Regression Coefficient	T Test		F-Test		Correlation Coefficient		Coefficient of Determination
		T-Test		F-Test		R		
	B	Value	Significance	Value	Significance	Value	Significance	R <sup>2</sup>
The Mechanism as a Whole	0.471	3.635	0	13.216	0	0.518	0	0.269

**The table above reveals that:**

- The correlation coefficient between the independent variable "mechanisms of NGOs as a whole" and the dependent variable "dimensions of realizing social support for Al-Gharimat as a whole" (0.518) was statistically significant at significance level (0.01), indicating a positive correlation between the two variables.

- The result of the F test (F = 13.216, SIG = 0.000) indicates the significance of the regression model, and the value of the coefficient of determination (0.269). This means that the NGO mechanisms as a whole explain 26.9% of the changes in the dimensions of realizing social support for Al-Gharimat as a whole.

- The value of the regression coefficient (0.471) indicates a positive relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. The result of the test (T = 3.635, Sig = 0.000) indicates that the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable is significant at a significant level (0.01).

This proves that validity of the third study hypothesis “There is a statistically significant correlation between the mechanisms used by NGOs and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat”.

### **Fourth Axis: Obstacles Facing NGOs in Achieving Social Support for Al-Gharimat:**

Table (10) Obstacles Facing NGOs in Achieving Social Support for Al-Gharimat as determined by officials (N=38)

Sr.	Statement	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	Weak relations between the organization and other organizations for supporting social support programs	1.79	0.66	10
2	Lack of adequate expertise for staff working in the field of support .	1.97	0.72	6
3	Services provided by the organization do not suit the needs of Al-Gharimat .	1.87	0.7	9
4	Lack of a communication system between the organization and Al-Gharimat.	1.89	0.73	8
5	The complexity of service access procedures in the organization.	1.95	0.61	7
6	Weak financial resources of the organization.	2.21	0.84	2
7	Low frequency of Al-Gharimat ' visits to the organization .	2.26	0.79	1
8	Low confidence among Al-Gharimat in the ability of the organization to help them solve their problems .	2.13	0.81	3
9	Lack of conviction among Al-Gharimat of the solutions provided by the organization .	2.05	0.77	5
10	Poor knowledge on ways for accessing services among Al-Gharimat.	2.08	0.78	4
<b>The Variable as a Whole</b>		<b>2.02</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>Medium Level</b>

In the first rank came “low frequency of Al-Gharimat ' visits to the organization” with an arithmetic mean of 2.26. This is maybe due to the lack of knowledge among Al-Gharimat on how to access services, the number of problems thy suffer from, or the interference of the NGO in their private matters which makes them refrain from visiting the organization or asking for help. .

At the end of the obstacles list came the “weak relations between the organization and other organizations for supporting social support programs” with an arithmetic mean of 1.79. The low ranking of this factor though does not lessen its importance. However, it does reflect a deficiency in the relation between the organization and other organization and the weak coordination between them. Mostafa Ahmed (2000) indicated that several obstacles lessen the rate of

cooperation between organizations working in the same field, which include funding and training.

Al-Gharimat first concern is the increased needs against inadequacy of the assistance provided. That is why they do not notice administrative obstacles, methods of service provisions, or delayed services provision. Their main focus is the material value of the services.

The results of the table is consistent with the studies of Abdel Fattah (2017), Hassan (2016), and Abdel Hamid (2012).

#### **Fifth Axis: Suggestions for Activating the Mechanisms used by NGOs in Realizing Social Support for Al-Gharimat.**

Table (11) Suggestions for Activating the Mechanisms used by NGOs in Realizing Social Support for Women Prisoners of Poverty as determined by officials (N=38)

Sr.	Statements	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
1	Building partnerships between organizations working in the field of care for Al-Gharimat.	2.82	0.46	6
2	Training on using modern methods of negotiation to solve the problems of Al-Gharimat.	2.92	0.27	2
3	Training staff on providing financial and moral support for Al-Gharimat.	2.84	0.37	5
4	Strengthening interrelations between legal, social and economic specialists to support Al-Gharimat legally, socially and psychologically.	2.84	0.37	5
5	Establishing a modern database including actual numbers of Al-Gharimat, their needs, and their problems.	2.89	0.31	3
6	Developing programs in light of the needs of Al-Gharimat.	2.76	0.43	8
7	Establishing a modern database of organizations that can provide assistance for Al-Gharimat.	2.87	0.34	4
8	Providing social awareness on the issue of Al-Gharimat in media.	2.95	0.23	1
9	Availing funding for these NGOs.	2.89	0.31	3
10	Soliciting the support of social workers to provide support for these NGOs.	2.79	0.47	7
<b>The Variable As a Whole</b>		<b>2.86</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>High level</b>

In the first rank was “providing social awareness on the issue of Al-Gharimat in media” with an arithmetic mean of 2.95, This is due to the important role that media plays in changing the negative perspective of Al-Gharimat.

At the end of the suggestions for activating NGO mechanisms for achieving social support for Al-Gharimat as determined by the officials came “soliciting the support of social workers to provide support for these NGOs” with an arithmetic mean of 2.79, which is in line with Mohammed’s study (1998). This is in line with the recommendations of Hassan, El Shorbagy, , and Darleen (2008), who indicated the necessity of activating programs provided by NGOs concerned with provision of social support for women. However, the low ranking of these indicators does not lessen their importance.

The results presented above may be due to the NGOs’ pursuing new resources to help solve problems, cooperation between organization contributing to support programs for achieving social support for Al-Gharimat, and inciting governmental institutions to support the efforts of NGOs in this area.

### **Discussion of Results:**

The study addressed the set hypotheses. The first hypothesis was "The level of mechanisms used by NGOs for realizing social support for Al-Gharimat is high through communication, partnership, and coordination. Results confirmed that the level of mechanisms used by NGOs for realizing social support for Al-Gharimat is high. Results stressed that coordination is one of the most important mechanisms as NGOs seek to maintain a database to prevent doubling of services between organizations working in the same field. Results also stressed that NGOs seek to reach agreed upon goals with other organizations involved in addressing the problem of Al-Gharimat.

This is consistent with the study of Helton K & Perston James (1991), which stressed the importance of coordination between organizations to achieve their objectives and that coordination has a positive impact on the establishment of public projects. The results of the study also confirmed that partnership and communication are important mechanisms for realizing social support for women prisoners of poverty. NGOs utilize media to inform the society about the problems of women prisoners and the necessity for addressing them, provide training for staff of NGOs involved in this problem, exchange information with other concerned organizations, and cooperate with other associations in monitoring services provided to

ensure the realization of social support for women prisoners of poverty. This was reiterated in Wilson-Pedro's study (2006), stressing that cooperation and partnership between organizations is useful in addressing problems. The study emphasized that research and programs to address problems are achieved through successful inter-organizational cooperation.

This is also in line with the theoretical principles of The (feminist theory) emphasizes the importance of cooperation and coordination between organizations to improve social welfare services aimed at women and achieve social justice and equality and enable women to participate in social issues of concern to women.

This agrees with Hegazy's 1996 study, which emphasized the necessity for social organizations to establish cooperative interrelations to ensure the achievement of development goals benefiting both organizations and beneficiaries.

The study results confirmed the second hypothesis "the dimensions for realizing achieving social support for Al-Gharimat are of a medium level". Thus, the validity of the second hypothesis is proved through its indicators of legal, economic, and social support. Results confirmed that organizations seek to realize legal, economic, and social support for Al-Gharimat, which was verified by beneficiaries as well. NGOs receive and analyze complaints from Al-Gharimat and seek to address them, and solicit the support of lawyers to attend investigations and trials (Egyptian Human Rights Foundation, 2009). Organizations have an important role in the addressing complaints, solving problems, and realizing social support community members in need through various mechanisms. The study results also confirmed that organizations seek to settle the debts of poverty prisoners, and enroll them in vocational training centers to ensure their receiving economic support. This was corroborated by Fathi's study (Madiha Mustafa Fathi, 2008), which emphasized the necessity of providing means of livelihood for the poor and women of poverty, and the implementation of development projects in poor areas. The results of this study also confirmed that organizations seek to satisfy the basic needs of the families of women prisoners of poverty, and nourish a sense of belonging among them to achieve social support and overcome the problems they face .

All above indicate that NGOs have an important role to play in addressing the problems of Al-Gharimat. In addition, there is a strong relationship between the mechanisms used by NGOs (partnership,

coordination, and communication) and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat (legal, economic, and social support). This proves the validity of the third hypothesis of the study "there is a statistically significant correlation between the mechanisms used by NGOs and the realization of social support for Al-Gharimat".

The researchers emphasize the importance of professional and occupational formation and provision of training for staff and social workers in organizations concerned with tackling the problems of Al-Gharimat. This is consistent with (Lena Dominelli) Feminist social work practice is empowerment based. Social workers seek to work with women to challenge the inequalities and oppression experienced in relationships and in society. The goal is to empower women to utilize the strengths and resources available on the personal, interpersonal and societal level and to eliminate any boundaries that are prohibiting such use.

Despite these efforts, there are many difficulties facing the organization in addressing the problems of Al-Gharimat and realizing societal support for them. These difficulties include: weak resources, lack of confidence among prisoners in the organization's ability to solve their problems, lack of sufficient expertise among staff in the field of social support for Al-Gharimat, the complexity of procedures for accessing services, weak relation between the organization and other organizations active in the same field of support programs for Al-Gharimat.

This is consistent with Mustafa's study, 2000 which indicated that there are many difficulties that lessen the degree of cooperation between organizations working in the same field, such as low funding, insufficient experience of staff, and poor cooperation. The two researchers thus stress the importance of coordination, cooperation, and partnership between organizations concerned with addressing the problems of Al-Gharimat of poverty to eliminate the problem and achieve stability in society. This requires the cooperation of all governmental and non-governmental organizations, raising community awareness on the problem, availing needed funds to solve the problems of Al-Gharimat of poverty, and coordination among all organizations operating in the same field.

**The two researchers assert that there is a set of Recommendations to realize social support for Al-Gharimat:**

1. Building a partnership between Misr El-Kheir Organization and other organizations working in the field of sponsoring Al-Gharimat to provide the necessary funding to face their problems .
2. Signing joint cooperation protocols between NGOs such as Misr El-Kheir Organization and the Ministry of Social Solidarity to participate in the implementation of joint programs and projects for the benefit of the Garimat category.
3. Organizing joint training courses between organizations and using experts to exchange different experiences in confronting the problems of Garimat.
4. The interest of the organizations in the social and financial work by assisting the financial social workers to help the women in their financial empowerment and face their problems through the cooperation of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

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