

**EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH MIGRATION: PORTRAYAL OF THE
EFFECTS IN ALBI DAK SERIES**

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by

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Abstract

Adults aged between 15 and 29 years old usually migrate from rural to urban areas because of the educational gap between their villages and the cities (CDR, 2016). This study examines the portrayal of this phenomenon of migration from urban to rural areas in televised series. It compares the empowerment that Carine Rizkallah, writer and lead woman character in “Albi Dak” series, demonstrated in the series to the lives of women in real life, and whether or not that empowerment portrays reality.

In order to direct the thesis statement, this study conducts some research on a few subjects: Cultural Educational Gap between Rural and Urban Lebanon, Rural Women’s Escape to Urban Areas, & the Effects of Migration on Women in different countries.

This part of the paper investigates the Empowerment theory, and its diverse concepts. Defining the concepts of this theory -Patriarchy, Effects of migration on women, Types of women empowerment- will help investigate the research problem, and develop its framework.

Following the non-probability snowball sampling, 176 women were asked to answer a set of questions related to their migration experiences.

Findings: In analyzing the data, it was proven that women at 18 tend to migrate more than women in their 30s. Results proved that these women also identify themselves with Carine from “Albi Dak”, her relatives, their traditions, her migration, and her empowerment post-migration. Results also demonstrate that there is no relation between the migration of Lebanese women and the patriarchy of their rural areas.

1. Introduction

Youth is a segment of the population that includes the active and dynamic sector aged between 15 and 29 years old. This sector is a force that constitutes 27% of the population and 41% of the labor force. Society refers to this sector as the “active and dynamic” member since at this age they start moving from rural to urban areas, or they start to migrate from their country to another. Both movements at this age are for educational and working purposes. Adults at this age usually migrate from rural to urban areas due to the educational gap between their villages and the cities. The “Factors Affecting the Educational Gaps between Rural and Urban Areas” are the difference in the academic achievements, a student's individual and family features, and some other factors including learning motivation, educational aspiration, learning efficacy, future aspiration, and the economic status of the family... (Na, 2011). By 2030, it is estimated that all developing regions will have more people living in urban areas than rural areas, with virtually all the world's population growth concentrated in urban areas (Grant, 2012). According to the Habitat National Report done by the Council of Development and Reconstruction in 2016 “Lebanon suffers from high rates of migration and emigration that largely affects the youth population. Youth tend to migrate from rural areas to the cities and emigrate to the Arab Gulf, US, and European countries among others to seek better living and working conditions”. A study conducted by the United Nations on the Lebanese urban issues, on 25 September 2015, stated that “Lebanon is one of the most urbanized countries in both the world and the Arab region, with 87% of its population of 4

million living in urban areas.”. This urbanization has many effects on an adult’s social, emotional, and financial statuses.

This study focuses on “women”, and how this urbanization affects a woman’s life, especially in Lebanon. It examines the portrayal of this phenomenon of migration from urban to rural areas in televised series. More specifically, this study will be looking at women’s migration in the popular series “Albi Dak”. “Albi Dak” was produced in Ramadan 2015, starring Carine Rizkallah. In this series, Carine, who is born in a patriarchal village in Lebanon, with five brothers and one ultimately traditional conservative minded father, is the main character. After her migration to Beirut, the Lebanese capital, Carine becomes highly reputed for her distinguished work in architecture. She is socially, financially, and intellectually independent.

Knowing that Carine demonstrated her empowerment in this series by showing how she was economically, socially, and politically independent, this study compares Carine’s empowerment to the lives of women in real life, and whether or not that empowerment portrays reality.

2. Literature Review

In order to study the Empowerment of women through Migration and how its effects are portrayed in the “Albi Dak” series, this thesis conducts research on multiple concepts including the educational gap between rural and urban areas, rural women escape to urban areas, and the effects of women’s migration in different countries.

2.1- Cultural Educational Gap between Rural and Urban Lebanon

The “Lebanese Illiteracy Report” explores the links between poor education and poverty, as well as the truth of gender equality in education (Galley, 2009). In this article, Maha Nahya, Project director of the NHDR (National Human Development Report), stated that the problem doesn’t lie in the quality of the education and services, but in access to them, and how the majority of good services are actually located in Beirut. Anita Nassar, assistant director of the Institute of Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at the Lebanese American University (LAU), mentioned that we are still living in a patriarchal society where people think it is more important for boys to be educated than girls, but this is changing. More women are signing up for education. Even with low level income, attention to education can reap tremendous benefits for the overall human development of the country.

Souraya Mansour (2005), in “Place-Based Learning Environments: Lebanese Secondary Student Perceptions of Environmental Experiences of Learning” studies the differences between rural and urban secondary school systems. The purpose of this study was to describe place-based education programs, unique to each Lebanese region, in urban and rural secondary schools, and to examine the link between environmental education and the students’ experiences of their learning environment. The study was built on several research approaches and concepts that include (i) environmental education and the learning environment (ii) place-based education (iii) Lebanon. The questionnaire was administered to 9 grade nine classes in urban and rural public schools across Lebanon. Three of the classes were further investigated and presented as case studies via mixed methods research approach. As a conclusion, environmental education in Lebanese learning environment has a positive influence on the students’ learning environment and which implies it would improve the quality of learning and hence academic achievement for the students.

2.2. Rural Women’s Escape to Urban Areas

Samira Aghacy (2001), in “Lebanese Women’s Fiction: Urban Identity and The Tyranny of The Past”, examines Lebanese women’s fiction. Aghacy looks at how the city gives women the opportunity to escape the narrow confines of home, family, and stifling traditions that have relegated them to a corner and associated them with a nostalgic past. This study was made on Lebanese women writers about their fiction. Despite the raw and tangible presence of the city in these women’s fiction, the majority of these female writers tend to view it as a representation than a reality. For them, the city is a mirror of a self they did not know they possessed, for rural

life was more linked to slavery and oppression. In this article, Aghacy examines the desire of a woman and how the city is a place that releases their sexual desires, how the past colonizes the present, the Oedipal preoccupation, and how women no longer feared their fathers. In conclusion, Aghacy found out that the relationship of present to past is a continuous exploring of the hidden intersections between two time spans, and how these are not separate entities. In fact, even though the city provides a breathing space, the stifling effect of traditions and the past continue to intrude in such a manner that women have no alternative but to shape their identities in relation to both forces.

Another study on the life stories of Female Household Servants in Addis Ababa, shows how females choose the Rural-Urban migration as an escape from their “Harmful Traditional Practices” (Shiferaw, Yosef, Mihret, Gottowik, 2017). Females living in Northern Ethiopia, are subjected to female genital mutilation, forced and early marriage, abduction, and rape. They choose to migrate to Addis Ababa, to start a new life away from their parents, husbands, and sometimes even their children. The authors collected life stories from young female migrants in Addis Ababa. These stories confirmed the frequency of violence to which the female part of the population in the rural parts of northern Ethiopia is exposed. This study found that 4 million women migrated mostly from Amhara region to the capital, Addis Ababa to work as permanent or shifting-hour female household servants.

2.3. Effects of Migration on Women in different countries

Julia Bello Bravo (2015), discusses how women participated extensively in migration from rural to urban West Africa, and how this participation, through entrepreneurial activities, contributes to the process of empowering. In the city of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, a survey was made on a selected group of female participants, between September and October 2011. These participants had different ages, marital statuses, education levels, and working loads. 163 women were asked to answer a set of questions related to their migration experiences. The results of the study were that life improvement in the city of Ibadan was associated with family, friendship interactions, and success in entrepreneurial activities among them.

A second article, researchers explored young Vietnamese migrants' perceptions of city life pre- and post-migration, and the consequences of migration on their adulthood transition and the context in which these effects occur (Pham, Do, Bui, Nguyen, 2018). Interviews were conducted among ten females and six male temporary unmarried migrants between the ages of 18 and 25, currently living in Ha Noi. These people were asked several questions, and the results were that, once in the city, the migrants' views dramatically changed. Life in the city was more "stressful, competitive, busy, rushed, and lonely" compared to life in their rural hometowns. Also, the majority of migrants stated that "they were more likely to stay within the migrant network while living in the city, typically befriending other migrants or remaining in contact with friends from back home. In addition to that, many female migrants agreed that city life had allowed them to think more progressively in gender roles within the family, but still largely accepted male dominance in the household."

Johan Fredrik Rye (2011), in “Youth migration, rurality and class: a Bourdieusian approach”, discusses the journey of the rural youths along the rural-urban dimension, and how such geographical mobility is integral to the construction of their life histories and the ways in which social circumstances influence their migration practices. Researchers launched a study among rural teenagers in a rural region in Norway – The Mountain Region. This paper was divided into four sections; the first was to discuss new rural studies that focused on the diversified migration practices and the fact that the traditional hegemonic ways of rural life are evaporating. In the second section, social classes were analyzed from a Bourdieusian perspective, and the benefits of the migration on different classes. Third, rural youths’ cognitive and normative conceptions of rurality and how they reflect on the social context of their everyday life was studied. And fourth youth rurals’ structured freedom was examined. It was concluded that there are important divisions in rural societies that follow a class logic and their impact on migration practices.

2.4. Literature Review Conclusion

In conclusion, the subject of urbanized women empowerment in Lebanon hasn’t been treated delicately, and has not been detailed. Rural women escape from their place-based villages, to the city, in order to first gain freedom from their previous patriarchal traditional system, and second to attain a better education, social relations, cognitive levels, culture, and language.

Although this woman faces many struggles, since somehow, she cannot totally let go of this traditional mind, these struggles empower her and enforce her confidence.

As portrayed in the series “Albi Dak” with Carine, moving from rural to urban Lebanon, and gaining education in what she loves, made her shine in her work, increased her financial status,

reinforced her confidence and her independence, and widened her culture and social relations.

Our purpose is to discover whether this empowerment is portrayed in the lives of actual women or not, first, and examine if actual women who migrated from rural to urban areas identify with Carine. Are women really becoming socially and financially independent? Are they becoming a force that stands in the face of any kind of power, especially man power?

In this paper, I will share a survey with women who have experienced the move from rural to urban, and who have watched the “Albi Dak” series to check whether they identify with Carine or not and conduct results about if and how this rural-urban migration affected their lives.

3. Theoretical Framework:

In this part of the study, the theoretical framework is investigated, and the Empowerment theory is defined. The concepts of this theory will help investigate the research problem, and develop its framework.

3.1. Definition

A first definition to the term Empowerment, as mentioned in the Collins Dictionary, would be “the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights”. This definition clarifies and relates to an internal force inside a person, that nourishes their confidence, frees them from their spiral of silence, and introduces them to a new world of liberty and release.

This Thesis focuses on the empowerment of women, especially those who used to live in patriarchal societies. These women are oppressed and affected by their rural societies’ rules and regulations, to a point that they find escape and freedom in the cities. They search for liberation from all this strictness and exploitation, and they start to fantasize about life in the urban areas. They are thirsty for education, culture, experiences, confidence, connection, social relations, and independence.

3.2. Patriarchal Society

Patriarchy is a social system in which males hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and control of property. In simpler terms, patriarchy is defined as a social system that values masculinity over femininity. This social system declares that men are in charge, and they dominate women.

According to this social system, women are seen as weak, submissive, and an “extension” of men. The highest accomplishment of a woman is to get married and to give birth. In addition to that, men are actually supposed to be physically and emotionally strong and dominating. In a patriarchal society, infants are assigned a certain gender at birth. A man living in this society cannot certainly act like a woman, for she is a symbol of weakness. As a result to this traditional oppressive thinking, women escape to urban areas, where, as they were told, life is free and minds are open. They have been promised that in the city, women are valued, women have voices, they can take decisions, they are financially independent, they are treated equally as men, and are socially active. This liberated life they dreamed, read, and watched in soap operas, isn't a fantasy anymore. They spend their adulthood fantasizing about it, and as a first step to let go of all this patriarchal traditional thinking of their surroundings, they take the decision to migrate to urban areas.

Sylvia Walby (1990) argues that there are six patriarchal structures which restrict women and maintain male domination, noting that:

- Women have less power and representation in the state/government
- Women are more likely to do the housework and take care of the children
- Women are more prone to violence and abuse than men

- Women get paid less than men
- Women's sexuality is more likely to be treated negatively
- Women are misrepresented in media and in popular culture

The existence of these structures restricts women's freedom and life, compared to men.

However, this dominance can differ across times and across cultures.

3.3. Effects of Migration on Women

According to Aghacy (2001), Rural women search for a way to be in the world, to be heard, and to raise their voices, and the city is a definite open space that could provide them with their independence, freedom, and liberation. They migrate searching for better education, hoping to meet mind-full cultural people, curious for higher pedagogic rates, thirsty to read and to enrich their knowledge. Their empowerment starts from the moment they step in their new place of habitation. Step by step, a cycle forms, starting its path from living alone, to educational and cultural knowledge enriching, to finding jobs, to gaining new social relations, to getting out of their spiral of silence, realizing that they now have a voice, they now can be heard, to finally growing their self-confidence, and finally attaining financial independence. The moment they realize they do not need anyone anymore, they can take a decision alone, they can endure any kind of obstacle, they can face any kind of problem, the moment they learn to love themselves, the moment they earn respect, the moment they raise their voice... In every moment of these, they get empowered. They attain high levels of internal power. They are now unstoppable. They can compete with men, and this was a dream to them. They can go into conversations and reference their arguments from their own knowledge, from their readings, or their culture. The second this female no longer feels strongly attached to her family, to her home, to her traditional

background, she is free. She is no longer relegated to the corner. She is now equal to men. She can now explore her gender. She can now realize her potential, and confront any kind of experience with it. “For many females, the city is a mirror of a self they did not know they possessed” (Aghacy, 2001). This city is a place that encourages and contributes to the release of sexual and passionate desire. There are no more constraints. These restrictions that a woman used to face in her rural society, are no longer existing. She is now free to take her own decisions. A woman migrating to an urban area builds her empowerment from many basic coincidences. And what adds to this empowerment, is that a woman’s surroundings in a city are open minded people, who encourage each other, who inspire each other, and who believe in each other’s dreams.

3.4. Types of Women Empowerment

Empowerment with women reflects in multiple forms: Economic, Social, and Political.

3.4.1. Economic Empowerment

All the poverty alleviation programs were focused on women as they were economically more disadvantaged than men, especially in rural areas where when it comes to income, a woman and a man with the same degree won’t have equal income. Economic empowerment is nothing but making women aware about their role / importance in economic development and provide them space for attaining financial independence and account their significant contributions to the production process.

3.4.2. Social Empowerment

Group empowerment is a concept that leads people to empower, encourage, and believe in each other's dreams. It expands the thinking and creativity of a person. A social relation may have a huge effect on someone's empowerment. Group or collective process always provide a support for empowerment as it exposes its members to local networks and this social interaction results in awareness about local realities which also helps them to overcome the barriers for accessing the resources.

3.4.3. Political Empowerment

Political empowerment is a process that enables women to increase their mobility and break their isolation, to develop their self-confidence and self-image and to establish their public presence. This type of empowerment gives women the right to take decisions, make changes, and affect settlement. Political equality includes not only equal right to franchise but also, more importantly, the right to access to the institutionalized centers of power. This kind of equality was first attained with the First Wave Feminism when women fought for their right to vote, and gained it.

4. Hypotheses and Research Questions

This Thesis will cover the hypotheses and the research questions. In fact, this research will explore women's migration from rural to urban areas, letting go of their patriarchal surroundings, becoming socially, politically, and financially empowered, and how this process was portrayed in the "Albi Dak" series.

Through a survey that will be distributed to multiple women, the goal is to get insights and responses to the following hypotheses and research questions.

H1: Women are more motivated to migrate to Rural areas when they live in patriarchal societies & surroundings.

H2: Migrating from rural to urban areas increases a woman's empowerment (socially, politically, and financially).

H3: Empowered women are often more likely to appreciate the portrayal of the effects of migration in the "Albi Dak" series.

H4: Women originated from Patriarchal areas identify themselves and their surroundings with Carine and her relatives.

H5: Women at 18 years old tend to migrate more than women at 30 years old.

5. Methodology

In this part of the paper, we will be covering the Methodology; Research sample, research procedure, and the variables.

5.1. Sample

This survey was distributed to a very specific audience including women under 45 years old who migrated from a rural to and urban area. The participants for this study were 275 women who were asked to answer a set of questions related to their migration experiences. The questions forming this survey focused on how women migrated from their patriarchal & traditional societies, to the urban areas, the empowerment they felt post-migration, the types of empowerment, their attitudes towards the migration process, and also their attitudes towards the portrayal of the process in the “Albi Dak” series.

This study follows the non-probability snowball sampling, since these women know each other, and one could forward and transfer the questionnaire to another.

5.2. Procedure

Participants were asked to answer two key questions to determine whether they could be of benefit & convenience for our research. These questions determined if the participants were

women who migrated from rural to urban areas, and that they have already watched at least four episodes of the “Albi Dak” series. Once they confirmed these questions, they have access to a survey of 15 questions that focused on the concepts of Patriarchy, Migration, Empowerment, the Portrayal of this process in the series, & Attitudes. Each participant was asked to forward this survey to multiple women of her knowledge who have migrated from rural to urban areas. These women know each other, and that is how this survey was completed by 275 women.

5.3. Variables

5.3.1. Age

Age is defined as the length of time that a person has lived or a thing has existed. This variable will be measured nominally.

5.3.2. Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a social system in which males hold primary power. It is also defined as a social system that values masculinity over femininity, which declares that men are in charge, and they dominate women. This variable will be measured using a Semantic-type scale measure, rating Patriarchy from 1= Not Patriarchal till 5= Very Patriarchal.

5.3.3. Migration

Rural-urban migration is the movement of people from the countryside to the city. This variable will be divided between two items covering the Reasons for this migration and if the woman migrated alone. Both items will be measured using a Nominal measure.

5.3.4. Empowerment

Empowerment is the process of becoming stronger and more confident, especially in controlling one's life and claiming one's rights. This variable will be divided into three items; Social, Political, and Economic. All items will be measured in a Likert-type scale, rating from strongly agree till strongly disagree.

5.3.5. Portrayal

Portrayal is defined as a depiction or representation of someone or something in a picture, literature, or work of art. It will be divided into two items; Real and Identification. Both items will be measured using a semantic-type scale.

5.3.6. Attitudes

Attitude is defined as a settled way of thinking or feeling about something. It will be measured in a Likert-type scale rating from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

6. Data Analysis

6.1. Quantitative Results

Table 1 and figure 1, show that out of 275 respondents we got 19 (6.9%) from Beirut, 157 (57.1%) from Bekaa, 56 (20.4%) from Mount Lebanon, 33 (12%) from North Lebanon, and 10 (3.6%) from South Lebanon.

Table1: Specify which of these governorates you are from.

Specify which of these governorates you are from.					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Beirut	19	6.9	6.9	6.9
	Bekaa	157	57.1	57.1	64.0
	Mount Lebanon	56	20.4	20.4	84.4
	North Lebanon	33	12.0	12.0	96.4
	South Lebanon	10	3.6	3.6	100.0
	Total	275	100.0	100.0	

Figure1: Specify which of these governorates you are from.

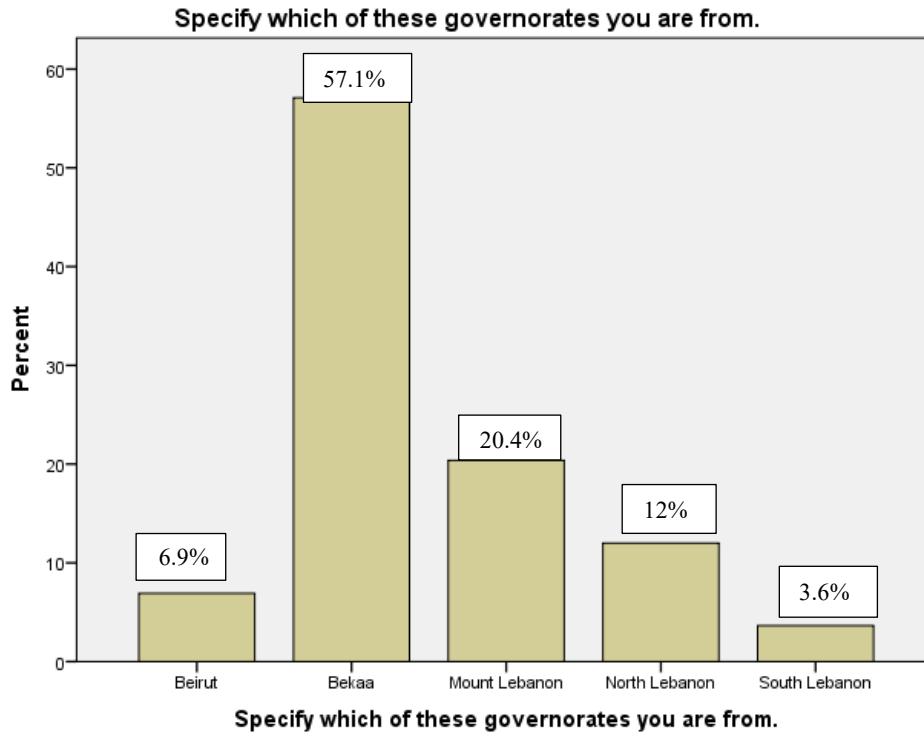


Table2: Specify your current age.

Specify your current age.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
17 and less	2	.7	.7	.7
18-20	16	5.8	5.8	6.5
21-23	105	38.2	38.2	44.7
Valid 24-26	80	29.1	29.1	73.8
27-29	28	10.2	10.2	84.0
30 and more	44	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	275	100.0	100.0	

Figure2: Specify your current age.

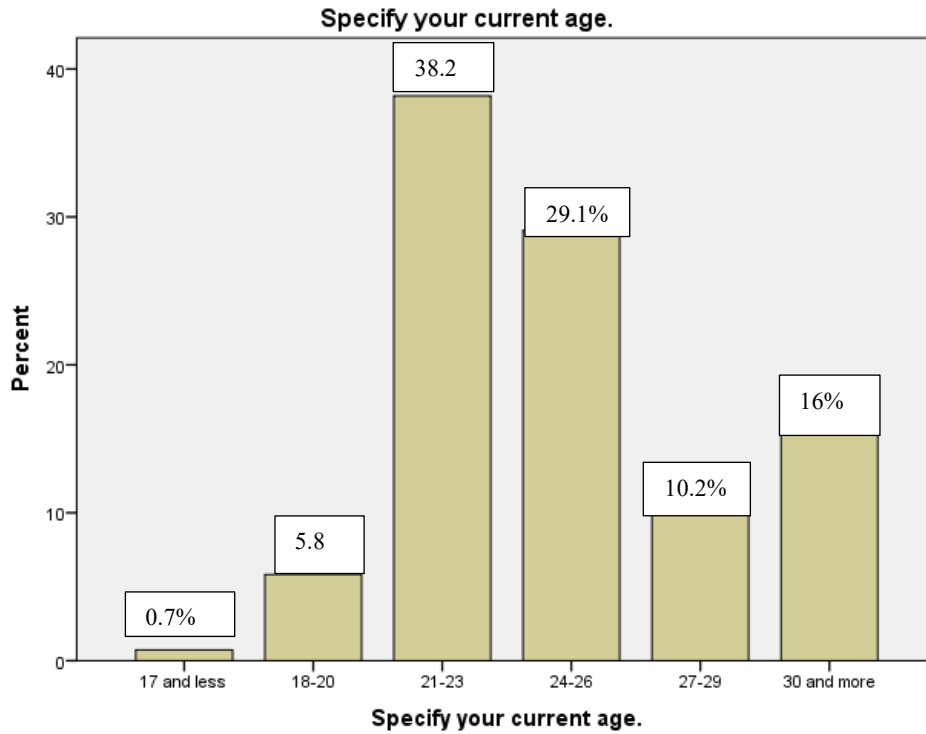


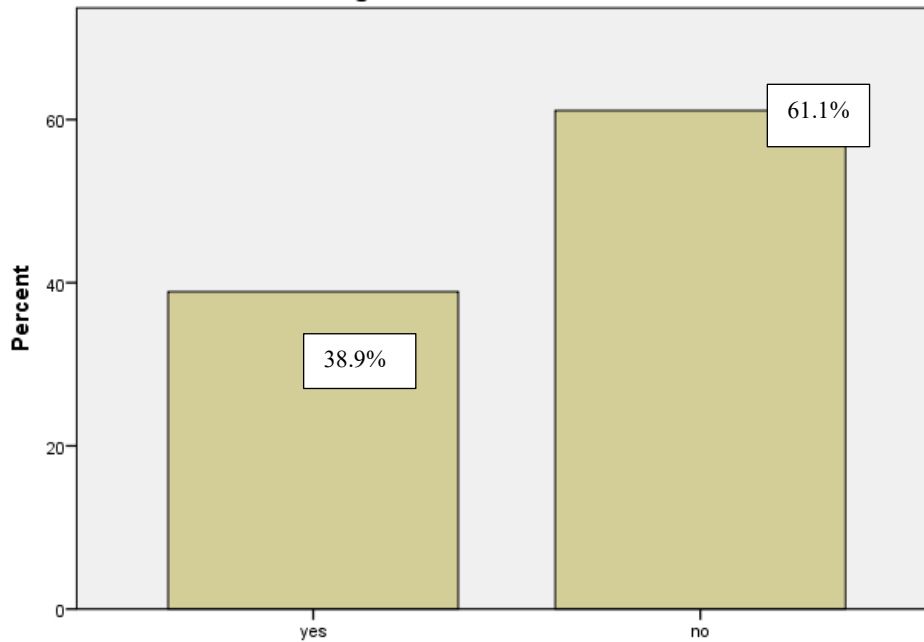
Table 3: You are a woman who has migrated from a Rural to an Urban area in Lebanon

You are a woman who has migrated from a Rural to an Urban area in Lebanon.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
yes	107	38.9	38.9	38.9
Valid no	168	61.1	61.1	100.0
Total	275	100.0	100.0	

Figure3: You are a woman who has migrated from a Rural to an Urban area in Lebanon

You are a woman who has migrated from a Rural to an Urban area in Lebanon.



You are a woman who has migrated from a Rural to an Urban area in Lebanon.

Table 4: Specify the age during which you migrated from a rural to an urban area.

Specify the age during which you migrated from a rural to an urban area.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 17 and less	14	13.2	13.2	13.2
Valid 18-20	72	67.9	67.9	81.1
Valid 21-23	12	11.3	11.3	92.5
Valid 24-26	7	6.6	6.6	99.1
Valid 27-29	1	.9	.9	100.0
Total	106	100.0	100.0	

Figure 4: Specify the age during which you migrated from a rural to an urban area.

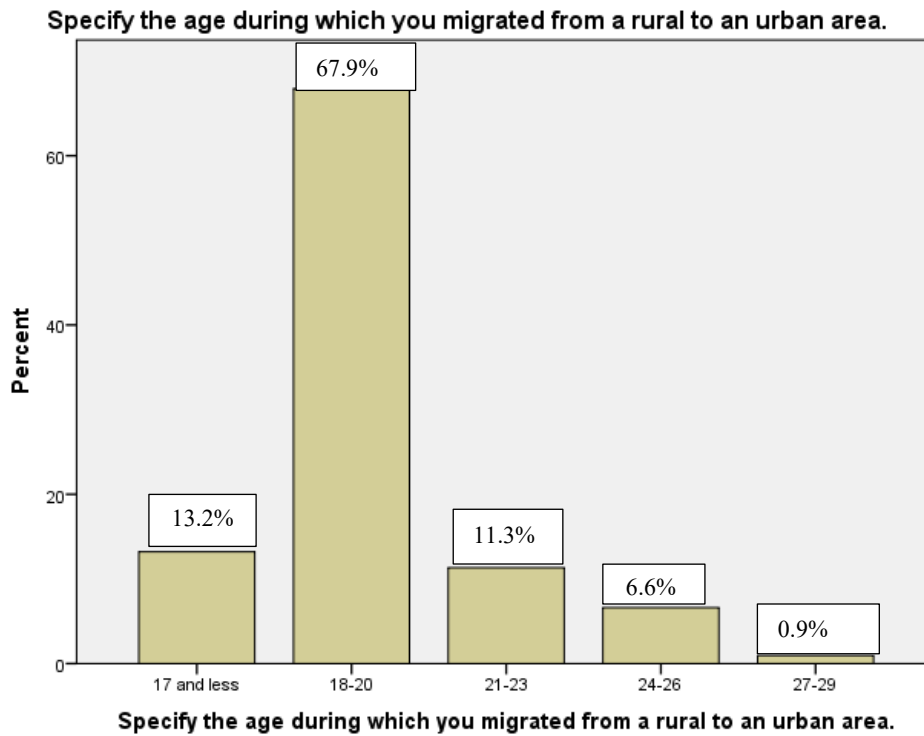


Table 5: Specify the reason for which you have decided to migrate.

Specify the reason for which you have decided to migrate.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Educational and job opportunity	1	.9	.9	.9
Educational purposes	85	80.2	80.2	81.1
Valid Familial migration	8	7.5	7.5	88.7
Job search/opportunity	11	10.4	10.4	99.1
All of the above	1	.9	.9	100.0
Total	106	100.0	100.0	

Figure 5: Specify the reason for which you have decided to migrate.

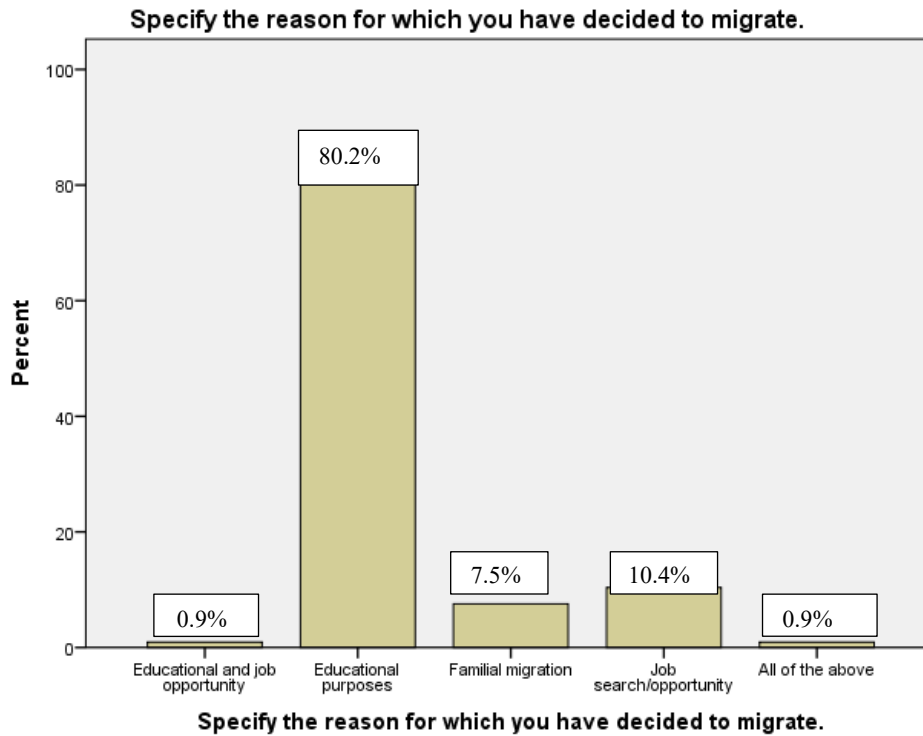


Table 6: You have migrated on your own.

You have migrated on your own.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
yes	87	82.1	82.1	82.1
Valid no	19	17.9	17.9	100.0
Total	106	100.0	100.0	

Figure 6: You have migrated on your own.

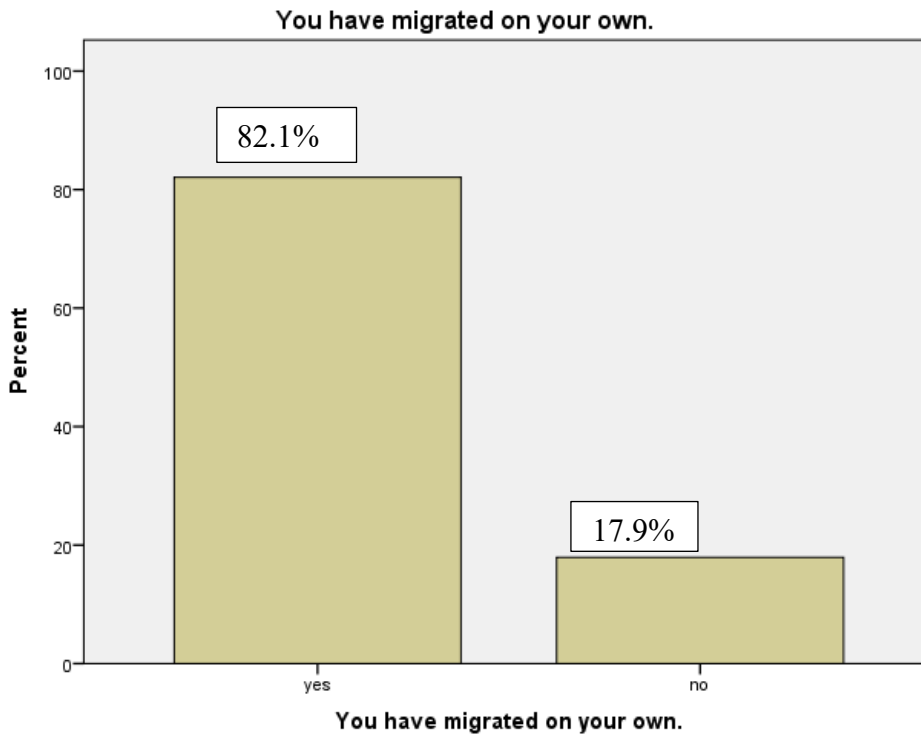


Table 7: Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area.

Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area. (1 being Not Patriarchal and 5 being Very Patriarchal)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
being Not Patriarchal	6	5.7	5.7	5.7
between not & neutral	19	17.9	17.9	23.6
Neutral	47	44.3	44.3	67.9
Between neutral & very	19	17.9	17.9	85.8
being Very Patriarchal	15	14.2	14.2	100.0
Total	106	100.0	100.0	

Figure 7: Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area.

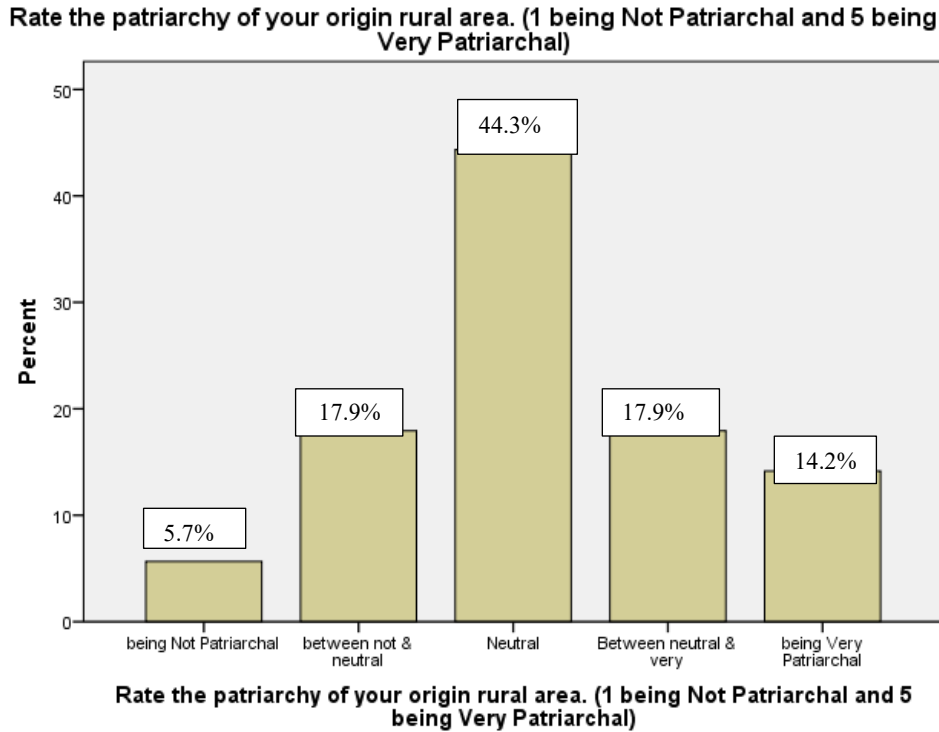


Table 8: Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration? * If yes, describe

Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration? * If yes, describe

Count

		If yes, describe				Total
		Independent	self-confident	socially empowered	no answer	
Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?	yes	35	14	3	11	63
	no	0	0	0	43	43
Total		35	14	3	54	106

Table 9: You felt more socially empowered post-migration.

You felt more Socially empowered post-migration.				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly agree	45	42.5	42.5	42.5
Agree	47	44.3	44.3	86.8
Valid Neutral	13	12.3	12.3	99.1
Strongly disagree	1	.9	.9	100.0
Total	106	100.0	100.0	

Figure 9: You felt more socially empowered post-migration.

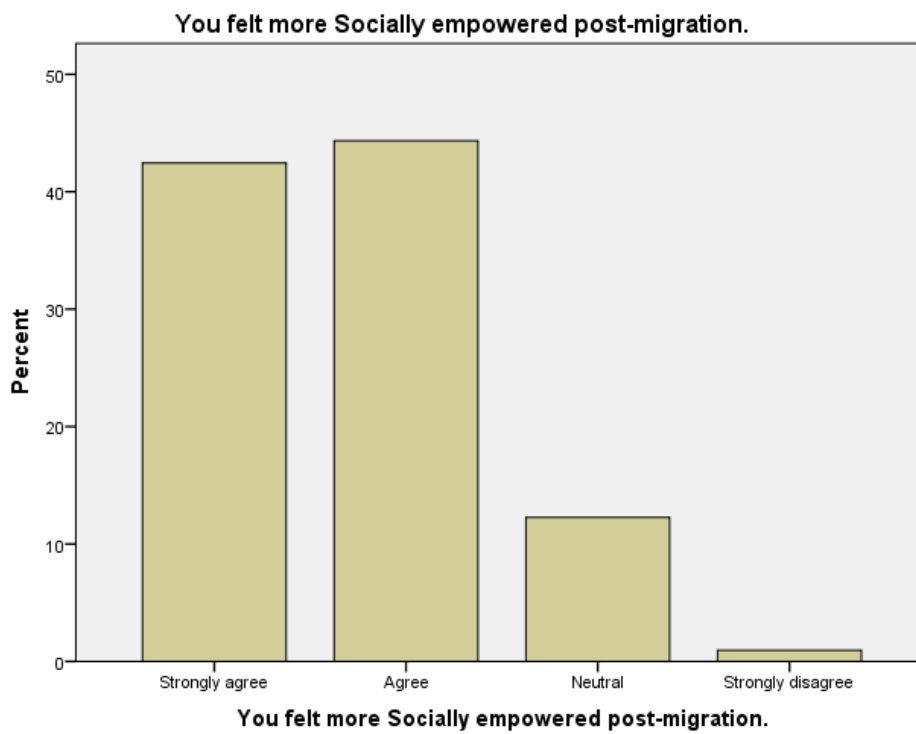


Table 10: You felt more politically empowered post-migration

You felt more politically empowered post-migration					
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Strongly agree	14	13.2	13.2	13.2
	Agree	24	22.6	22.6	35.8
	Neutral	55	51.9	51.9	87.7
	Disagree	10	9.4	9.4	97.2
	Strongly disagree	3	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	106	100.0	100.0	

Figure 10: You felt more politically empowered post-migration

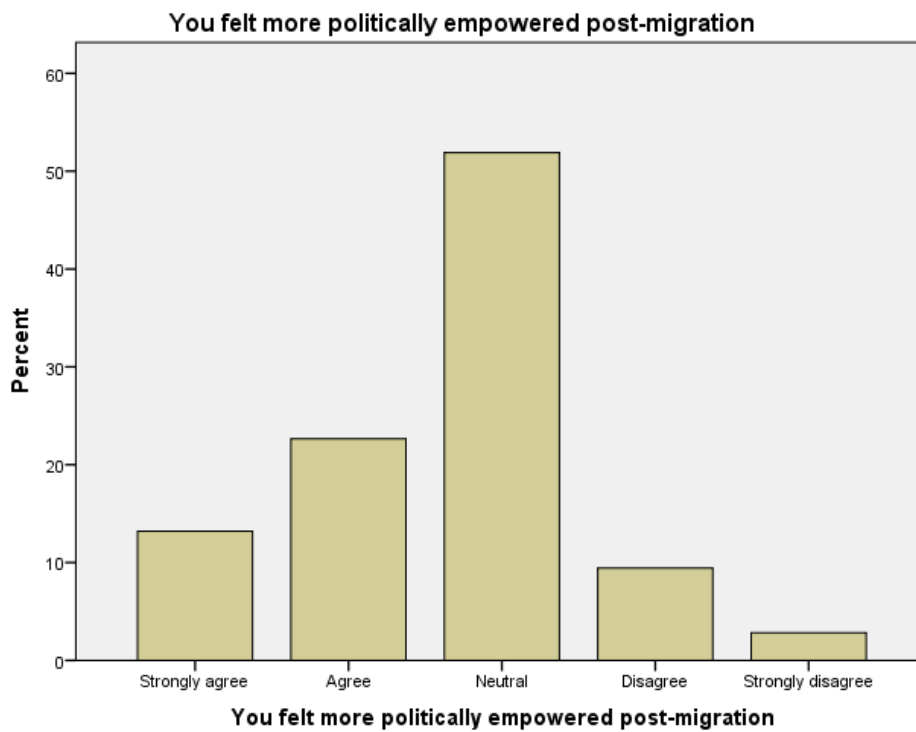


Table 11: You felt more financially empowered post-migration

You felt more financially empowered post-migration				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	34	32.1	32.1	32.1
Valid Agree	36	34.0	34.0	66.0
Valid Neutral	27	25.5	25.5	91.5
Valid Disagree	7	6.6	6.6	98.1
Valid Strongly disagree	2	1.9	1.9	100.0
Total	106	100.0	100.0	

Figure 11: You felt more financially empowered post-migration

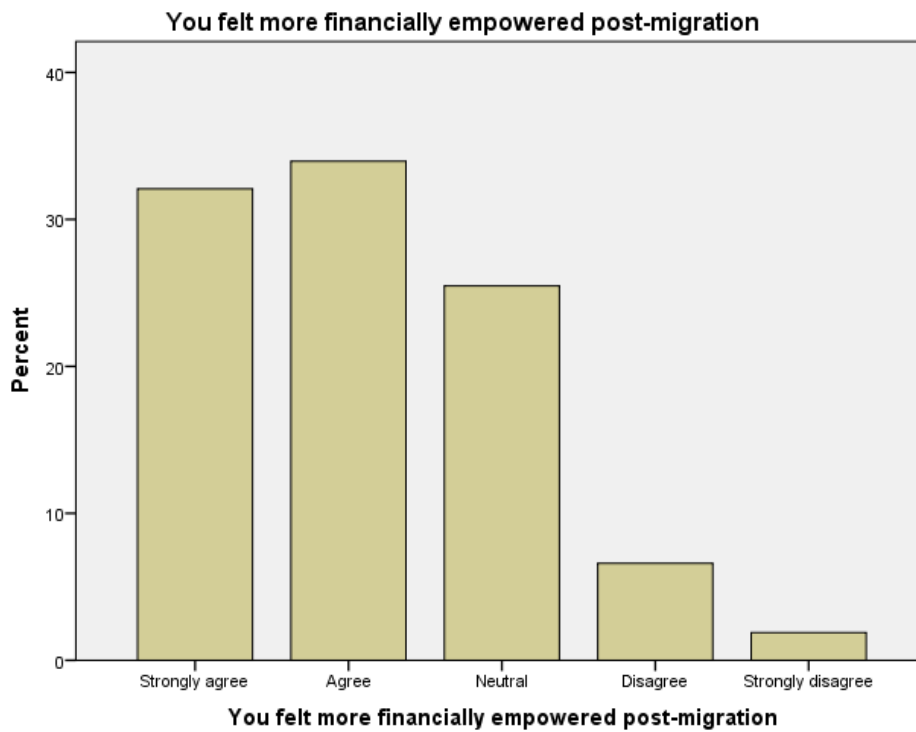


Table 12: You have watched at least four episodes of the “Albi Dak” series * Rate, from 1 to 5, the portrayal of the effects of the migration on Carine in the “Albi Dak” series and its similarity to the reality.

You have watched at least four episodes of the “Albi Dak” series * Rate, from 1 to 5, the portrayal of the effects of the migration on Carine in the “Albi Dak” series and its similarity to the reality. (1 being Not similar and 5 being Very similar) Crosstabulation

Count		Rate, from 1 to 5, the portrayal of the effects of the migration on Carine in the “Albi Dak” series and its similarity to the reality. (1 being Not similar and 5 being Very similar)					Total	
		being Not similar	between not and neutral	neutral	between neutral and very	being Very similar		No answer
You have watched at least four episodes of the “Albi Dak” series	yes	6	3	20	20	10	0	59
	no	0	0	0	0	0	48	48
Total		6	3	20	20	10	48	107

Table 13: Knowing the Migration’s effects on your attitude, can you relate Carine’s financial, social, and political empowerment to your own? * If yes, explain how (Crosstabulation)

Knowing the Migration’s effects on your attitude, can you relate Carine’s financial, social, and political empowerment to your own? * If yes, explain how Crosstabulation

Count		If yes, explain how			Total
		Better education & wider opportunities	Independent	No answer	
Knowing the Migration’s effects on your attitude, can you relate Carine’s financial, social, and political empowerment to your own?	yes	3	14	10	27
	no	0	0	29	29

Total	3	14	39	56
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6.2. Findings

H1: Women are more encouraged to migrate to urban areas when they live in patriarchal societies & surroundings. (REJECTED)

There is a positive linear relation between “Have you migrated on your own” and “Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area” but it is **statistically insignificant**. (r=0.041; N=106; p=0.675)

Correlations			
		You have migrated on your own.	Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area. (1 being Not Patriarchal and 5 being Very Patriarchal)
You have migrated on your own.	Pearson Correlation	1	.041
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.675
	N	106	106
Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area. (1 being Not Patriarchal and 5 being Very Patriarchal)	Pearson Correlation	.041	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.675	
	N	106	106

H2: Migrating from rural to urban areas increases a woman’s empowerment (socially, politically, and financially). (ACCEPTED)

There is a positive linear relation between “Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?” and “You felt more socially empowered post-migration” but it is **statistically significant**. (r=0.329; N=106; p=0.001)

Correlations			
		Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?	You felt more Socially empowered post-migration.
Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?	Pearson Correlation	1	.329**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	106	106
You felt more Socially empowered post-migration.	Pearson Correlation	.329**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	106	106

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a positive linear relation between “Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?” and “You felt more politically empowered post-migration” but it is **statistically significant**. (r=0.326; N=106; p=0.001)

Correlations			
		Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?	You felt more politically empowered post-migration
Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?	Pearson Correlation	1	.326**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	106	106
You felt more politically empowered post-migration	Pearson Correlation	.326**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	106	106

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

There is a positive linear relation between “Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?” and “You felt more financially empowered post-migration” but it is **statistically significant**. (r=0.284; N=106; p=0.003)

Correlations			
		Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?	You felt more financially empowered post-migration
Did you feel a difference in your attitude & behavior post-migration?	Pearson Correlation	1	.284**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.003
	N	106	106
You felt more financially empowered post-migration	Pearson Correlation	.284**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	
	N	106	106

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

H3: Women originated from Patriarchal areas identify themselves and their surroundings with Carine and her relatives. (ACCEPTED)

There is a positive linear relation between “Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area.” and “Rate the portrayal of the effects of the migration on Carine in the “Albi Dak” series and its similarity to the reality” but it is **statistically significant**. (r=0.444; N=56; p=0.001)

Correlations			
		Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area. (1 being Not Patriarchal and 5 being Very Patriarchal)	Rate, from 1 to 5, the portrayal of the effects of the migration on Carine in the “Albi Dak” series and its similarity to the reality. (1 being Not similar and 5 being Very similar)
Rate the patriarchy of your origin rural area. (1 being Not Patriarchal and 5 being Very Patriarchal)	Pearson Correlation	1	.444**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	56	56
Rate, from 1 to 5, the portrayal of the effects of the migration on Carine in the “Albi Dak” series and its similarity to the reality. (1 being Not similar and 5 being Very similar)	Pearson Correlation	.444**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	56	56
** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

H4: Women at 18 years old tend to migrate more than women at 30 years old. (ACCEPTED).

The majority of the respondent which has migrated from a rural to an urban area was between 18 and 20 years old.

6.3. Analysis

In analyzing the data, it was proven that women at 18 tend to migrate more than women in their 30s. Women at 18 usually migrate in search of better education. This proves that the problem lies with access to good education in Rural areas, which aligns with the articles in the literature review discussing the Cultural Educational Gap between Rural and Urban Lebanon. This Educational Gap encourages women to migrate at younger ages so they can have access to better cultural and educational opportunities. Results proved that these women also identify themselves with Carine from “Albi Dak”, her relatives, their traditions, her migration, and her empowerment post-migration. The city encourages women to be more liberated & free. They tend to be more financially, politically, and socially independent. This demonstrates that what Julia Bello Bravo (2015) discussed in her study in “Rural-urban migration: A path for empowering women through entrepreneurial activities in West Africa” is true. Women in West Africa, just like women in Lebanon, feel more empowered when they migrate to the city. However, results demonstrate that there is no relation between the migration of these Lebanese women and the patriarchy of their rural areas, which contradicts with women in Ethiopia in the study on Rural-to-Urban Migration as an Escape from “Harmful Traditional Practices”: A Study of the Life Stories of Female Household Servants in Addis Ababa by Abinet Shiferaw, Dawit Yosef, Melake Mihret and Volker Gottowik (2017).

7. Limitations and Further Suggestions

The limitations of a study basically discuss any unanswered questions that a study did not address. We believe that one limitation to our study would be the very specific sample we chose. Sample size depends on the nature of the research problem. This might lead to statistical tests not being able to identify significant relationships within data set. Basing our study in larger sample size could have generated more accurate results.

8. Conclusion

Migration from Rural to Urban areas generally affects young migrants, especially as they are in the phase of transition to adulthood. Increased responsibilities and autonomy, coupled with the burden of assimilation into the new city lifestyle are major challenges for both genders. Women tend to migrate hoping the city will be their escape from traditional and patriarchal surroundings. They start their life in a city feeling more financially, socially, and politically empowered. They have voices, they share opinions. But can she totally get rid of her traditional habits or her conventional mind? Will her voice ever be equal to one of a Man's, even in the city? Does the city provide what every rural woman fantasizes about? As shown in Albi Dak series with Carine, a woman, no matter how empowered, will never get rid of her patriarchal background.

A woman fighting to learn, to be highly educated, thirsty for culture, searching for a better job, getting into politics, giving her opinion, always faces slight discrimination and harassment, even in the city. An expansion of this study is demanded in order to analyze the content of several Lebanese series, and how they show these concepts, from an Empowerment Theory lens.

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