

May 2022 Newsletter

A Virtual Research Symposium on the Most Prominent Contemporary Youth Issues: Challenges and Policy Response

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University (QU) organized a virtual research symposium entitled “The Most Prominent Contemporary Youth Issues: Challenges and Policy Response” on Sunday, 22 May 2022 via Webex, in the presence of Prof. Dr. Kaltham Ali Al-Ghanim, Director of SESRI, and a number of researchers and personnel interested in this field.

The symposium included four consecutive themes: Education, building abilities and participation in the labor market, marriage and family, empowering and enhancing youth community participation, mental health and youth wellbeing. Dr. Hessa Al-Thani, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Education at QU, participated in the first theme and delivered a presentation on student-centered learning and facing the future. Furthermore, Dr. Sarah Al-Maadeed, Assistant Professor of Management, College of Business and Economics at QU delivered a presentation on cooperation between relevant institutions to empower the Qatari workforce in the labor market.

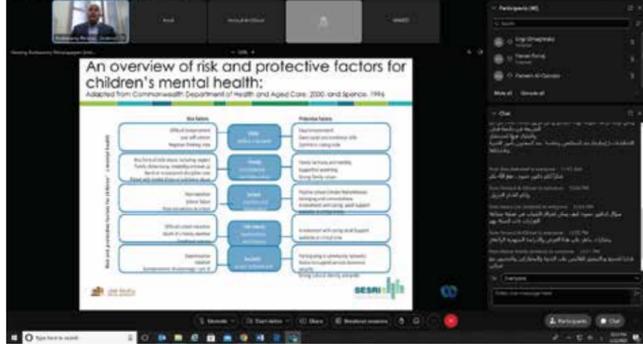
For the second theme Dr. Azza Abdelmoneium, Director of Research at the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) delivered a presentation on Youth perception of marriage in Qatar: Challenges and recommendations.

Dr. Anis Bin Brik, Associate Professor at the College of Public Policy at

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), delivered a presentation entitled “Relationship Quality and Support for Family Policy during the COVID-19 pandemic in the GCC.”

As for the third theme, Prof. Hmoud Olimat, Chair of Social Work Program School of Social Sciences and Humanities at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, presented on Voluntary participation of youth in Qatar: Extent of prevalence, challenges and relationship to social responsibility. Dr. Maher Khelifa, Associate Professor of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences, QU, presented on knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors towards sustainable development among QU students.

For the fourth and final theme, Prof. Arokiasamy Perianayagam Head of Urbanization Development Desk at SESRI delivered a presentation entitled “Adolescent mental health issues in Qatar: Challenges and policy action”.



Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim stressed the importance of the symposium, which was held in conjunction with the Qatar Youth Empowerment project, which aims to collect statistical data from the youth at the individual, family, professional and social levels, in order to bridge the scientific gap by providing up-to-date data based on survey and scientific evidence with the aim of building a strong and cohesive society by the hands of youths.

Questions were also allocated after each theme, including enriching and effective discussions, where knowledge and experiences were exchanged between speakers and those interested in contemporary youth issues, aiming to contribute to the realization of Qatar National Vision 2030.

SESRI's participation in the activities of the 77th Annual Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)

SESRI participated in the activities of the 77th Annual conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), which was held in Chicago, Illinois (USA) from 11 - 13 May 2022. SESRI researchers presented two research papers and six posters at the conference.



Prof. Abdoulaye Diop, Manager of the Research Department at SESRI, presented a research paper entitled “Change or continuity? Attitudes and perceptions about the reformed employment system in Qatar”, and Dr. Kien Trung, Research Associate Professor, presented another research paper entitled “Differential impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on migrant workers in the Gulf”. Lina Bader, Research Assistant at SESRI, presented the posters, which included:

- The World Mental Health Survey during the coronavirus pandemic: Can a long phone survey be an alternative to face-to-face?
- Interest in volunteering at mega events: Attitudes and motivations for the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup.
- Cheering for the home team: Changes in attitudes towards hosting the FIFA 2022 World Cup in Qatar.
- Welfare index of migrant workers in the Gulf: The case of Qatar.
- Online learning during Covid-19.
- Practice of GIS applications to estimate land usage- Qatar 2021 Agriculture Census.

Psychotic Experiences in Qatar

Psychosis is a mental disorder that affects how your brain processes information. It causes you to become disconnected from reality. You may see, hear, or believe things that are not true. Psychotic experiences are common and could be an early indicator of serious and life-threatening mental illness.

This is the first research of its kind in Qatar. The research aims to collect characteristics of these experiences, which include details like the frequency, intensity, and impact on daily activities. Data from the study will provide baseline information to inform early detection, prevention, and treatment of severe mental illness in the earlier stages of the illness. The outcomes of the study are expected to have a significant impact on how policy makers will develop prevention and treatment services for those who may need them.

The Department of Psychiatry at Hamad Medical Corporation in collaboration with the Social & Economic Survey Research Institute at QU and with support from the Ministry of Public Health is conducting a study to determine prevalence and potential risk factors of unusual perceptual experiences in patients in Qatar.

Participants will receive an SMS message from HMC with the link to the web survey, which will take approximately 25 to 30 minutes to complete. All responses will be treated confidentially. Answers to the survey cannot be identified individually when reporting the findings, but will have impact on provision of mental health service in Qatar. Therefore, we ask anyone who will be invited to take part in the study to participate.

For more information, visit our website: <http://pe-qatar.com/>

Publication of a Research Paper Entitled “Patterns of compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures among the public in Qatar and Kuwait”

Dr. Noora Lari, Manager of the Policy Department at SESRI, and Noor Al-Thani, Research Assistant at the institute, have published an article titled “Patterns of Compliance with COVID19- Preventive Measures Among the Public in Qatar and Kuwait” in ‘Global Social Policy’ SAGE journal. The aim of the paper is to assess the public’s perception, knowledge, and adherence to preventive behaviors to mitigate the spread of the virus. The data was collected through an online survey administered in both Qatar and Kuwait. The main findings of this paper is that although individuals were well informed about the pandemic, compliance with state-imposed control measures continued to be a challenge on the basis of multiple individual-level factors. This raises the imperative need for governments’ transparent communications with the public regarding information disclosure measures to gain their attention and trust, which is essential to strategic planning success.

The journal has a high impact factor of 1.9 and is indexed as one of the most important journals in the field of social policies.

For more information regarding the research paper, click the following link:

Lari N, Al-Thani N. 2022. Patterns of compliance with COVID19- preventive measures among the public in Qatar and Kuwait. Global Social Policy.
doi: [10.1177/14680181221092682](https://doi.org/10.1177/14680181221092682)

Releasing the Executive Report of the Agricultural Census Project

This report presents the results for the Agricultural Census Project for the year 2020-2021 conducted by SESRI at QU in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. The report contains an overview of the country in terms of administrative division, terrain, climate, data methodology and quality, in addition to the stages of census implementation. The results included the structure of the agricultural sector such as crop composition in the country, cultivated areas and livestock distributions.

