

November & December 2021 Newsletter

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University is more than Halfway through Successfully Completing the First National Mental Health Study in Qatar

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University (QU) organized a virtual lecture on Qatar's National Mental Health Study. Dr. Salma Mawfek Khaled, a Research Associate Professor from SESRI-QU, presented this lecture to a large audience of researchers and attendees interested in health in general and mental health in particular. Dr. Salma showcased the details of the study and its stages, clarifying the challenges and the latest developments, and emphasized the effective role of this research project in supporting Qatar to establish the necessary infrastructure to collect data for the mental health of the population.

The study is part of an international collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), Harvard University, University of Michigan, an initiative that has collected data in more than 30 countries worldwide. Professor Kaltham Al-Ghanim, director of SESRI-QU, added that the institute in collaboration with the MOPH and HMC is conducting the study, which



is the first of its kind in the country that collect comprehensive data on the prevalence and associated factors of mental disorders to enhance our understanding of the epidemiology of mental illness in Qatar's society today.

Qatar national TV "Hayatna" program hosted Dr. Salma Khaled

The National Study of Mental Health in Qatar received great attention from Qatar national TV, as "Hayatna" program hosted Dr. Salma Khaled and Dr. Majed Al Abdullah (Senior Consultant in Psychiatry and Medical Director of Mental Health for Hamad Medical Corporation) in a television interview show. The purpose of the interview was to highlight the importance of the Mental Health Study in Qatar.

SESRI produced the third executive summary report of the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SCDL) Workers' Welfare Project

The objective of this report is to present information from SC blue-collar workers about their working and living conditions in Qatar. The report also presents recommendations to SCDL to guide their future planning. Additionally, SERSI finalized the agreement with SCDL to conduct the fourth wave of this study in 2022.

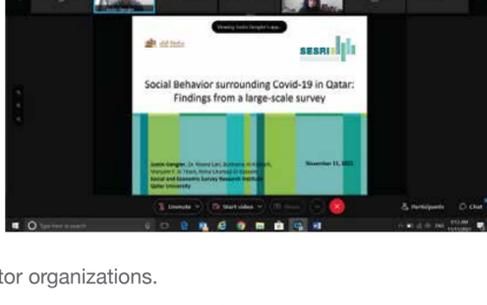
Extending the Agreement Between Ministry of Municipality and Qatar University in the Field of Agricultural Census



The agricultural census, carried out based on an agreement between Qatar University and the Ministry of Municipality, is one of the important research projects that helps develop plans and strategies related to food security and sustainable agricultural development. SESRI'S participation is an opportunity to reflect Qatar University's vision and qualitative excellence in research and a catalyst for the sustainable economic and social development of the country. After the completion of the second phase of the agricultural census data collection, which will be published in the form of a book, the agreement with the Ministry of Municipalities has been extended to complete the third phase of the project to implement the "Costs and Agricultural Production Survey", which will end on September 30, 2022.

SESRI Organized Virtual Research Symposium 2021

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University organized a virtual research symposium entitled "The Role of Survey Research in Promoting Qatari National Development amid the Covid - 19 Pandemic". Present at the symposium were Prof. Mariam Ali Al-Maadeed, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at Qatar University, a number of university experts and researchers, from various local private and public sector organizations.



Prof. Mariam Ali Al-Maadeed opened the event by stating, "The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University has conducted various surveys and produced reliable information and statistics that helped state institutions and decision makers in formulating their policies and plans based on scientific data from the field."

Project Collaboration with the Ministry of Municipality – Public Parks Department, Titled "Measuring Population Satisfaction with Public Park Services."

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University has discussed a number of research projects in coordination with the Ministry of Municipality, the most important of which was cooperation with the Ministry's Public Parks Department on a project titled "Measuring Population Satisfaction with Public Parks Services." The project aims to measure residents' satisfaction with the services provided in 142 parks and gardens. Parks and open spaces contribute to promoting the values of justice and social



development and enhancing identity and belonging to the community. The scope of services, the cooperation agreement, the project implementation period, the date for submitting data, and final policy reports to the Ministry during 2022 were also discussed with researchers.

Proposal Submission to the 3rd Cycle of Food Security Call (MME)

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute participated in submitting a proposal for the third round of the joint food security call between the Ministry of Municipality and the Qatar National Research Fund, led by Dr. Sana Abu Sin in the Institute's Policy Department. The expected results will help inform policy as well as facilitate linkages between actors within the supply chain. A group of senior researchers from the Ibn Khaldun Center at Qatar University, Hamad Bin Khalifa University and Haigazian University in Lebanon participated in the project. The proposed study is important, as it will provide a complete analysis of losses within the supply chain, thus informing policy makers of the stages of loss.



Member of Qatar Foundation

Research Outcome Seminar (ROS) on "Preserving Family Values in a Globalized World" by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Researchers from SESRI participated in an ROS organized by the QNRF, a member of the Qatar Foundation. The researchers discussed issues related to family values, marriage, parenthood, and family policies. SESRI director, Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, presented NPRP research outcomes for a project titled, "Marriage and Tradition: Exploring the Foundations of Qatari First cousin." Dr Kien Le, Associate Project at SESRI, presented project NPRP022-5-190-9 titled, "Fertility of Qatari and GCC



Research Outcome Seminar

Policies on a Context of High Dependency on GCC Labour: An Innovative Approach for Policy Making on Family Building." Dr Noora Lari, policy department manager at SESRI, presented research outcomes of project OSRA19012-0324-4 titled "Analysis of Influencing Factors of Marriage Delay and Women's Labor Force Participation in Qatar." Research was presented on marriage formation and the gender differences in marriage timing.

Round Table Discussion on "The Pandemic Crisis and Post-Pandemic Recovery: Challenges for Public Administration"

SESRI's Policy Department, led by Dr. Noora Lari, and researcher Maryam Fahd Al-Thani, participated in a panel discussion on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public administration at Lomonosov Moscow State University. Researchers focused on three main themes: Global pandemic challenges, major developments in the area of public administration, Social and socio-psychological aspects of the pandemic crisis and labor market and the transformation of the employment sphere. The SESRI researcher team presented a study on psychological distress during COVID-19, titled, "A Structural Equation Modelling Approach to Understanding the Causes of Psychological Distress during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Qatar". Researchers also discussed Qatar's preventative measures, procedures, policies and the vaccination program as well as the rapid growth of survey-based research based on a series of methodologies, statistical methods, and the impact of the pandemic on survey methodologies, and presented a series of policies for the scientific research methodologies during the pandemic.



Factors Associated with Depression and Anxiety in the Adult Population of Qatar after the First COVID-19 Wave: a Cross-sectional Study

Abstract: The study showed that there is limited data from Arabic-speaking countries on risk factors for depression and anxiety during the COVID19- pandemic in the Arab region. Country-specific data is necessary given differences in culture, demographics, and COVID-19 infection and mortality rates. The main purpose of the study is to identify the factors associated with symptoms of depression-anxiety in the adult population of Qatar during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research team conducted a cross-sectional online survey in Qatar between July and December 2020 after Qatar's first COVID-19 wave and before the beginning of the second wave. Depression-anxiety was defined as a cut-off of 20 or higher on the Patient Health Questionnaire – Anxiety Depression Scale. The potential risk factors identified may assist with anxiety and depression prevention in future COVID-19 waves, and similar national events, and assist with early intervention to treat patients.

Introduction: On the Scarcity and Promise of Survey-Based Studies of International Relations and Security Affairs in the Middle East

Despite a dramatic increase in the availability and quality of public opinion data from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) since the Arab uprisings of 2011, the use of surveys to study international relations and security affairs in the region remains notably rare. One likely reason for the dearth of survey-based work is the assumption that there are relatively few important questions regarding which citizens in the mostly authoritarian MENA states can be expected to influence outcomes, particularly those relevant to Western foreign policy interests that have historically dominated research agenda. This introduction argues that such popular influence on foreign and security policy should not be the standard for judging the utility of survey-based research. It concludes by introducing the articles of this Themed Section, which, although examining diverse substantive topics, are united in showing the value of survey methods and evidence for generating novel insights about international and security affairs in the MENA region. Corresponding author: Dr. Justin Gengler, Research Associate Professor-Social and Economic Survey Research Institute.

Using Green and Digital Technologies to Reduce Waste at the Consumer Level, Consumer food waste in Doha Case Study: Doha, Qatar

More than 90 % of solid waste is generated in urban areas in Qatar. The capital, Doha, alone contributes to about 60 % of the overall solid waste generated in the country, the primarily due to high levels of industrialization, and is considered one of the most pressing environmental problems due to the increasing rate of generation. To date, average food waste in Qatar is estimated between 0.7 kg and 0.9 kg per person per day for the food service sector, and between 0.7 kg and 1.5 kg per person per day for the food waste that makes up part of the country's overall municipal solid waste. There is a general lack of awareness about the consequences of food waste in Qatar. There is also no urban composting infrastructure in Doha, and most of the waste generated in the city, including food waste, goes to landfills.

