

Health campaigns less impressive for young Qataris

The Peninsula

Despite nation-wide efforts to educate Qatari adolescents about health conditions and how to stay healthy, a recent study by Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) found that health campaigns in Qatar are less impressive for young Qataris than one would hope.

The study, "Health Information and Monitoring Among Qatari Adolescents," provides an in-depth understanding of how Qatari youth acquire information about health issues of all kinds. The results of the study were launched at a symposium held at NU-Q, with attendees from health institutions around Qatar, including the National Center for Cancer Care & Research, Qatar Cancer Society, Primary Health Care Corporation, Sidra Medicine, and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. This marked the first time that these organizations had come together to address the issue of health communication with adolescents.

Among the study's key findings are that young people in Qatar still rely heavily on interpersonal sources of health information, including their parents, siblings, friends, and

medical providers. Nevertheless, the vast majority of teens also turn to the internet and social media for health information – important sources that are somewhat neglected by major health campaigns.

"Qatari youth are suffering from serious health conditions – above all being overweight," said Klaus Schoenbach, lead researcher and NU-Q senior associate dean. "Our study found that Qatari teens are turning to the internet to find solutions, cures, and understand symptoms; however, the judgment and skills are often lacking to know how to assess and deal with the abundance of information they come across online."

Schoenbach, collaborated with Ellen Wartella, an expert on children's media and health and Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Professor of Communication Psychology and Education at Northwestern University, and Salma Mawfek Khaleed, assistant professor and survey researcher at Qatar University's Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI).

Everette E. Dennis, dean and CEO of NU-Q, said, "This study, the first of its kind in Qatar, underscores the importance of ensuring that accurate, appropriate, and easily accessible



Representatives from leading health organisations in Qatar during a symposium at NU-Q held to discuss a recent research publication "Health Information and Monitoring Among Qatari Adolescents."

health information is available to youth online. It also suggests the need to improve digital health literacy among Qatari adolescents."

The study assessed results from interviews with more than 1,100 Qatari teenagers, aged between 13 and 20 years. The interviews were administered in Arabic by the SESRI staff.

Other key findings of the study includes that more than 40 percent of Qatari teens claim to seek health information online at least once a week, and 20 percent do so daily. While,

"Googling" a topic is the most common way Qatari adolescents search for health information online and social media, specifically Twitter are popular sources for health information.

Also major health campaigns have not been memorable among Qatari teens and Qatari teens choose their health information sources based on confidentiality and convenience.

The project was funded by the Qatar National Research Fund's (QNRF) National Priorities Research Program (NPRP).

QCHP holds training for survey & inspection staff

QNA

Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners (QCHP) has recently organised a workshop to train a new survey and inspection staff to prepare and qualify them to review applications submitted by accredited organizations as providers of medical education, continuing professional development and field visits.

The workshop was part of the efforts of the (QCHP) to ensure the optimal application of the National Program for Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development.

It included presentations, scenarios and interactive discussions during which the survey and inspection team was briefed on the policies, regulations and procedures related to the accreditation system for medical education and continuing professional development.

The survey team was selected by the (QCHP) from various health care institutions and academic institutions in Qatar in accordance with the qualifications and skills necessary to accomplish the tasks entrusted to them.

The new group of the survey and inspection team was added to the current group, which in turn contributed to the six accreditation courses and participated in the review of 18 applications for the accreditation of continuing professional development providers.

The number of continuing professional development providers accredited by (QCHP) is 12 accredited providers for sponsoring health care education activities in the State of Qatar.

International science journal selects HBKU senior scientist

The Peninsula

Dr Zhaoyang Liu, senior scientist at Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), was selected for the editorial board for Scientific Reports – part of Nature, the prestigious international journal. This achievement further bolsters HBKU's sterling reputation as a committed backer of developing and enriching innovative research in the sciences.

Scientific Reports is a publication geared towards a global audience of researchers and professionals with diverse backgrounds. It includes the latest research conducted across a multitude of fields, including the environment, energy, medicine, physics, chemistry and many more. Dr. Liu joins reputed academics and scholars from a myriad of scientific disciplines, around the world, publishing high-caliber primary research on the natural and clinical sciences.

Dr Liu said, "As members of



Dr Zhaoyang Liu, senior scientist at HBKU Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) during research works.

a prestigious publication's editorial board, we are entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that research papers being published are entirely accurate, factual and of the highest quality. I am extremely proud to represent HBKU on the international stage as a steward of knowledge in my role with Scientific Reports. A robust peer review process is the core foundation upon which any scientific community relies to validate research results. This guides

future cutting-edge research in the field and creates a positive cycle that leads to further advances in science and technology."

Since joining QEERI in 2014, Dr. Liu, and his team, have been conducting advanced research, to find solutions to address Qatar's water security grand challenge. He currently leads the pillar of water process development and optimization, as part of the Water Security Research Portfolio.

Best Buddies marks Day of People with Disabilities

The Peninsula

Best Buddies Qatar will celebrate World Day of People with Disabilities, which falls on December 3, each year with a number of activities, events and awareness campaigns throughout the week in various areas of the country.

The event will include activities aimed at highlighting the issues of persons with disabilities and achieving social integration, technical activities and distribution of brochures and awareness leaflets, the event will conclude with a play with the participation of people with disabilities.

On this occasion, Executive-Director of Best Buddies Qatar, Laalee Abu Alfain, said that Qatar, through its National Strategy 2030 and through its five-year plans, provides all benefits to people with disabilities in Qatar. Best Buddies Qatar also ensure for people with disabilities equal opportunities and full and effective participation in society in order to contribute to the prosperity of the country and to achieve its comprehensive development.

She explained that the initiative



seeks to disseminate programs and to organise events and seminars and field



Various activities organised by Best Buddies Qatar as part of the World Day of People with Disabilities.

visits contributing to draw attention to the issues of people with disabilities and ways to integrate them in society.

The Executive Director of Best Buddies Qatar Initiative said that in recent years, the international community had made significant progress in the rights of persons with disabilities and efforts to mainstream

disability issues have been mainstreamed into major global development programs, including the 2030 Program of Action which is a plan of action that seeks to push the entire world to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced and integrated manner.

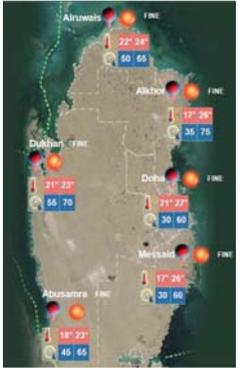
PRAYER TIMINGS

FAJR	04.42am		
SHOROOK	06.03 am		
ZUHR	11.23 am	MAGRIB	04.45 pm
ASR	02.23 pm	ISHA	06.15 pm

WEATHER TODAY

21°C | 27°C

Minimum | Maximum



Mild daytime with some clouds and slight dust to blowing dust at places at times.

HIGH TIDE 04:45-15:45 LOW TIDE 11:15-22:15

Source: Qatar Meteorology Department

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Today in History

December 3, 1967

▲ Surgeon Christiaan Barnard carried out the world's first heart transplant operation in Cape Town, South Africa. The patient survived for 18 days.

1984: A toxic gas leak at the Union Carbide pesticide plant near Bhopal, India, killed over 3,700 people

1997: A treaty banning the use or manufacture of landmines was signed by 121 countries in Ottawa

2002: UN weapons inspectors searched one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces in Iraq

2010: Nissan released the Leaf, one of the first electric cars to be sold on the mass market

Picture: Newscom © GRAPHIC NEWS