

Why Do People Participate in Surveys in Qatar? Results from the 2015 Qatar Olympic Committee, Surveys

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2016 (ARC'16).

Introduction

In Arab region most of survey institutions do not offer incentive for participation to respondents, especially in gulf countries and particularly in Qatar state where per capita income reach 123 thousand US\$ (World bank, 2015) so the incentives may be considered as a non-value. Social and Economic Survey Research Institute — SESRI at Qatar University perform many face to face personal interview in Qatar since 2009 which it didn't provide any incentives to participate.

Participation in public opinion surveys in the State of Qatar is voluntary, and respondents are not offered incentives for participating. Nevertheless, rates of participation in face-to-face surveys conducted by the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) of Qatar University remain at levels that far exceed those observed in Western and even other Middle East.

Objectives

This study aims to understand why Qatari citizens participate in household surveys conducted in the country. Using data from a 2015 survey of 823 Qatari households, we examine the reasons underlying individuals' decisions about participation in surveys.

- Determine reasons for participate in SESRI public opinion surveys (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)).
- Study Qatari attitudes towards participation in (CAPI) surveys.
- Determine factors that may affect in the participants refusal decision.

Method

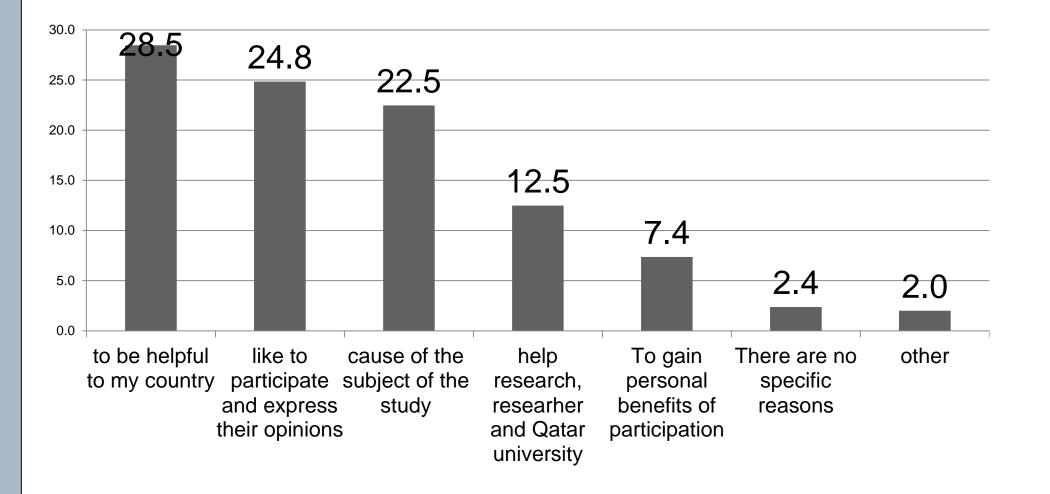
•Using data from 2015 survey of 823 Qatari households, we examine the reasons underlying individuals' decisions to participate in survey, we asked people about the reasons to participate in surveys in Qatar state in general. This paper summarizes our field data for survey participants who were randomly selected to participate in a survey. It includes other related survey data that may help us understand a participant's decision to take the survey.

Results

Qatari respondent were asked "what are/is your reason/s to participate in the survey" in Qatar. The results showed that there was 28.5% participate to be helpful to their country, while quarter (24.8%) of the respondents stated that are looking to express their opinions in general, whereas (22.5%) identified that they only interest in the survey subject.

•12.5% they said that they like to help researchers and Qatar University (sponsor), while 7.4% they said that they participate to gain personal benefits. See figure (1)

Figure (1): Reasons to participate in surveys



II Age

When split the age into two groups less than 40 years and 40 years and above we found that there is a significant different among respondents towards their reasons to participate in surveys.

Only 23.1 % of participants under the age 18 to 39 years old stated that they participate due to sense of patriotism

and they would like to be helpful to the country, this ratio is lower with 12 points from the proportion of participants 40 years or above (35.8%). The different between the two groups is statistically significant.

For the second reason of participation "expression the opinions", the group of young people (18 to 39 years) is higher 8 points (28.4%) with the old age participants (40 years and above) where only (19.9%) agreed with the same statement, in other hand there is no different between the two groups when respondents chose the subject of research as a reason to participate where (23.6%) of the young participants indicate the research subject as reasons versus (21.1%) of the other groups 40 years and above. See table (1)

Table (1): Reasons according to respondent's age

Reasons	Age (18 – 39)	Age (40 +)
To be helpful to my country	23.1	35.8
like to participate and express their opinions	28.4	19.9
Cause of the subject of the study	23.6	21.1
Help research, researcher and Qatar University (Sponsor)	11.1	13.9
To gain personal benefits of participation	2.9	1.7
There are no specific reasons	8.9	5.5
other	2.0	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0

II Mode of live

outside cities

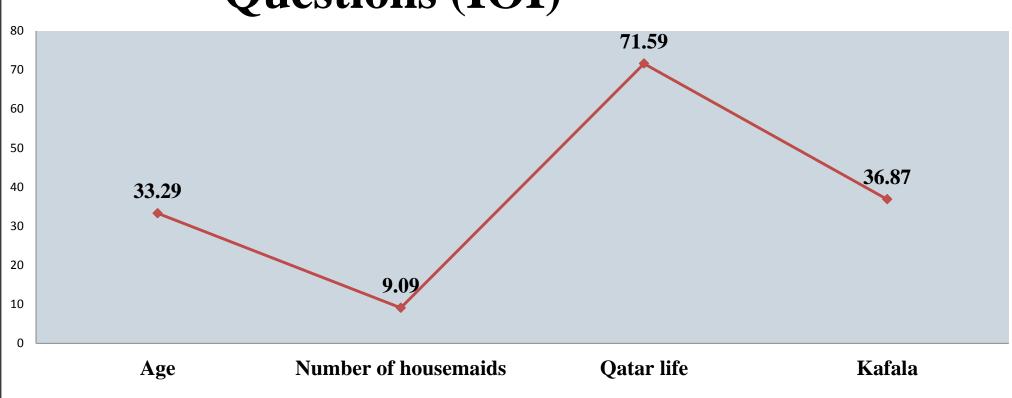
Although there is no division according to mode of live in Qatar, the geographic division depend on administration area, however this study classify area's according to live status into two group, first group for respondent who live inside cities and the second group for those who live outside cities, which include Doha, Rayyan, Wakrah and Alkhor.

The data shows significant different between the two group, respondents who indicated that they participate to be helpful to the country inside the cities is higher with 8 points than the group live outside cities, and the percentage are 31.2%, 23.4% respectively. This different between the group also appear in the respondents who stated that they participate for un-specific reasons with about seven points (5.4% and 11.2% respectively). On other hand there is no big different between the two group when they stated that the participation came because they would like to help researcher and interviewer and they support the sponsor QATAR UNIVERSUTY and the research in general by 25.2% and 24.1% respectively for respondents inside cities and

Table (2): Respondents according to the mode of live and reasons to participate

Reasons	Cities	out Cities
to be helpful to my country	31.2	23.4
like to participate and express their opinions	25.2	24.1
cause of the subject of the study	22.8	21.9
help research, researcher and Qatar University (Sponsor)	10.9	15.5
To gain personal benefits of participation	2.7	1.8
There are no specific reasons	5.4	11.2
Other	1.9	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Figure2: Index of Inconsistency of the Study Questions (IOI)



Conclusion

This study being the first ever held in QATAR, that means there is many lessons from this experience to be learned in the process of implementing the surveys and the re-interviews for the quality issues.

Our experience in this study for the particular questions we use was effective in assessing overall data quality according to the question type, the scale question in this study (Qatar life) since its expresses people views about life in Qatar, and there are evidences show that it's hard to keep respondent's opinion about specific case which can be affected by many factors during the first interview or the reinterview, however the form of the question can greatly affect respondents choices. (HOWARD SCHUMAN and JACQUELINE SCOTT, 1987), we can say that the variance between the two answers in (Qatar life) is reasonable, but we believe that researchers must think carefully before deciding which scale they can use in the survey.

Regarding differences between respondents in answers variances, we can say that the only approved question in this study was the (Age), and since women are emotionally sensitive when asked personal questions, such as their age, however in this study the old women likely to change their age than the young respondents women.