



Dr Achraf Osman

Title: Elderly Care in the GCC: Family Experiences with Assistive Technology

Abstract:

Elderly care is a significant concern in the GCC region, especially with the increasing older population. The talk will delve into the experiences of families in the GCC, particularly in Qatar, with the use of Assistive Technology for the elderly and their caregivers. Despite the pressing need for technological intervention in elderly care, there has been a noticeable gap in both research and practical implementation of ICT solutions in the region. The study, based on a hybrid qualitative approach, gathered insights from semi-structured interviews with 20 older and 20 caregivers residing in Qatar. The discussion will highlight the pressing need to foster the digital inclusion in the region and underline the importance of assistive technology and digital accessibility for the elderly.

Bio:

Dr. Achraf holds a pivotal position as the Head of Innovation and Research Section at the Mada Qatar Assistive Technology Center in Doha, Qatar. Here, he delves into intricate IT industry conundrums, specifically in the domains of assistive technology and digital accessibility. With a commitment to innovation, Dr. Othman spearheads projects harnessing cutting-edge technologies, natural language processing, and artificial intelligence to craft solutions that empower individuals with disabilities. Recognized for his contributions to the field, Dr. Othman is an esteemed IEEE Senior Member. His expansive expertise has also been sought internationally, resulting in his consultancy on various global and regional IT ventures.