

## **Social Impact of COVID-19 on Qatari Families: Challenges and Coping Strategies**

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**Abstract:** The pandemic of the coronavirus has swept the world and affected health, economic, social and financial aspects on all countries around the world in an unprecedented way due to its universal spread. Qatar is no exception from these countries.

Families in Qatar were greatly disturbed by the pandemic leading to many challenges, which affect their health and social functioning. Using a qualitative approach, this paper examines the social impacts of COVID-19 on families in Qatar and investigates coping strategies that could strengthen family cohesion. Based on in-depth interviews with a total number of 47 Qatari and Non-Qatari male and female participants, the results showed that families faced social challenges such as social isolation, marital disputes, tension between family members and social distancing during lockdown . Coping strategies such as the use of social media, family connectedness, family activities were strategies used by the families to survive the crisis.

Policy recommendations and interventions programs is important in aiming for better health and social life needed for the families during the pandemic in Qatar.



**Bio:** Azza O. Abdelmoneium (Phd Social Science) currently working as the director of the research department at Doha International Family Institute – member of Qatar Foundation in Qatar. She has more than fifteen years of experience at the academic, research and civil society organizations. She worked in the academic field in the Netherlands and Sudan teaching and supervision of undergraduate and graduate students. She worked with international organizations, the United Nations, IOM on issues related to children, displacement and families. She published scientific articles and presented conference papers on children, disability, elderly care, family issues. Her research interest include family, children, parenting, rights, gender, elderly care and civil society.