



Sharique Umar



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**Title: The complex dynamics of household labour and women's empowerment in Qatar**

**Abstract:**

The Gulf region has experienced a significant increase in the employment of female domestic workers, commonly known as “maids,” from developing countries in Africa and Asia. In a state like Qatar, which boasts one of the highest per capita incomes, it is common for native families to employ multiple maids to fulfill various household duties, including childcare. This study aims to analyze the impact of domestic workers on the empowerment and socioeconomic trajectories of Qatari women, taking into account the interplay between cultural expectations, societal norms, and women's aspirations. By examining the influence of domestic workers on Qatari women's empowerment, this research will shed light on the complex dynamics of household labor division, gender roles, and social change in the Gulf region. Through a mixed-methods approach incorporating formal and informal interviews, reviews of existing surveys, and analysis of secondary sources, this research will delve into the experiences and perspectives of Qatari women within the context of employing domestic workers. The study will investigate various dimensions of empowerment, including decision-making authority, economic independence, participation in professional and public spheres, and self-confidence. Existing literature on South-South migration primarily focuses on issues surrounding male labor migrants, while studies on female domestic workers often emphasize their vulnerable circumstances. In contrast, this study aims to present a theoretical perspective that views domestic workers as subjects of sociological inquiry and knowledge production, moving beyond the portrayal of their victimization.

### **Bio:**

*Sharique Umar is a Ph.D. student in the Gulf Studies Program & Center at Qatar University, where he also works as a graduate assistant. He holds two master's degrees, an MA in International and Area Studies from Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi, India, and an MA in Islamic Ethics from Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar. Sharique's research interests include South-South migration, migrants' identity, the intersection of religion and migration, and culture and society in the Gulf. Sharique has worked on several projects with various organizations such as Qatar Foundation, Stimson Center in Washington, and Schumacher Society in New Delhi. He has recently published a chapter in a book titled "Social Change in the Gulf Region: Multidisciplinary Perspectives" among other publications.*

### **Bio:**

*Wajdan Karbon is currently pursuing her Doctoral degree at the Gulf Studies Program at the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University. She holds a master's degree in politics and international Relations from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies in Qatar. Her master's thesis delves into a comprehensive analysis of Qatar's foreign policy and its intricate relationships with Iran and the United States of America. Wajdan's research interests primarily revolve around exploring the intersection of culture and international relations within the dynamic context of the Gulf region.*

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