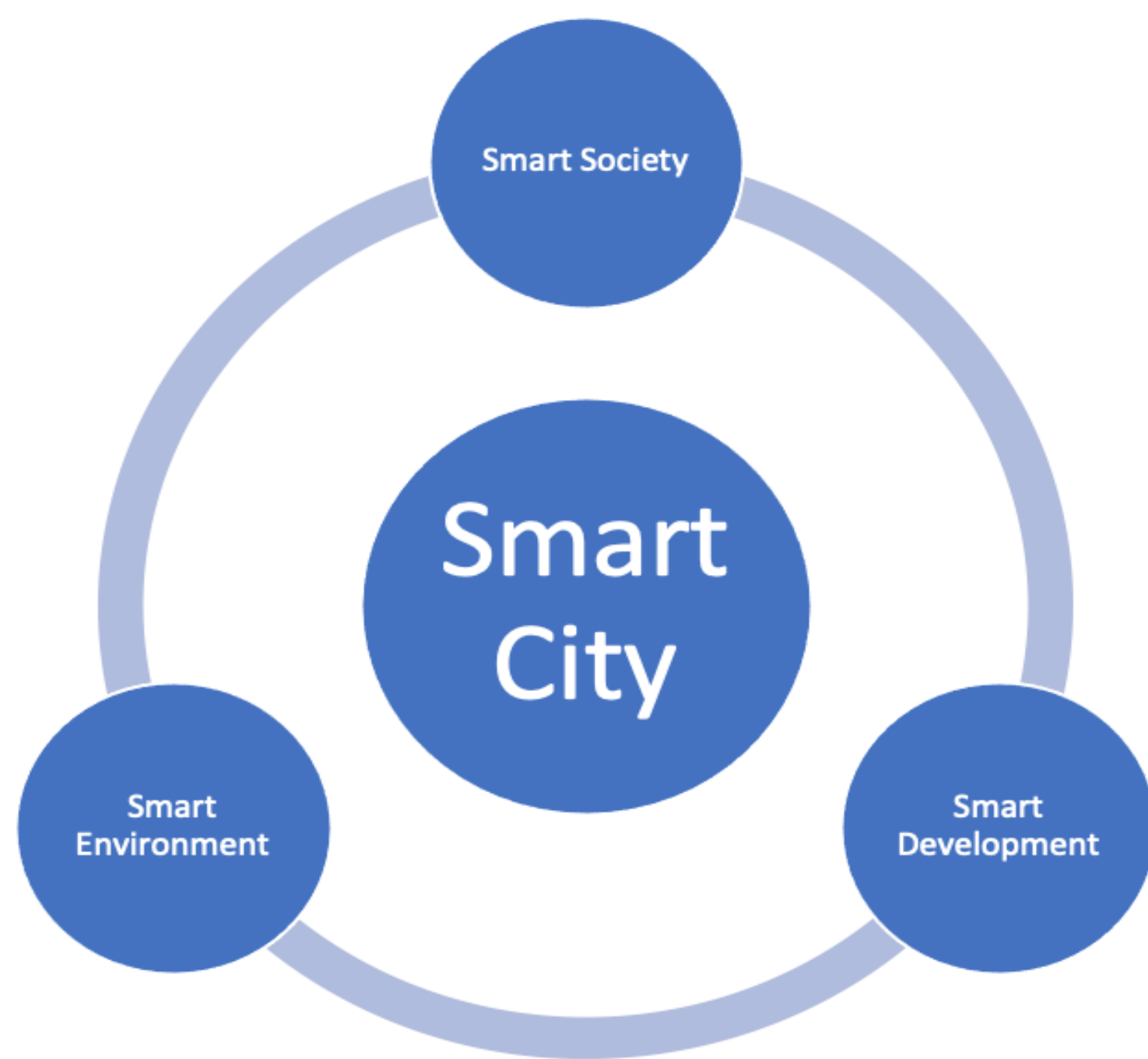


Smart City and Preservation of Identity in Doha



ABSTRACT

Globalization and modernization process of the 20th -21st centuries decreased the diversity and created a similar cultures. The modern culture created "modern" cities as well. Modern cities provided humanity the integration into the production. Transportation, accommodation and the other needs of people that integrated to the production has designed into that cities. However, later developments and research denotes that the cities are not sustainable for long term. Air pollution, supply of water and food, accessing services are the main concerns that modern cities faced. Therefore, a new development in the concept of cities created which is smart cities. The theory of smart cities provide the administrative power of a country a well-established, sustainable and smart development. The theory implemented to Doha, as a one of the example of latest developed/developing cities, by Qatari administration. The limited population of Qatar and a significant wealth of natural gas provide them to establish a smart city. The main catch-phrase for Qataris on that development project is modernization with protecting the heritage.

This study examines how Qatar attempts to create Doha as an example of smart cities while they protect the tradition and the culture. The main focus of that study will be the economic, societal and environmental developments to denote the harmony of modernity and tradition in Doha.



Logo of Doha Metro



Quranic Botanic Garden Museum/Qatar
Source: Quranic Botanic Garden

The vision of the QBG denoted as to bridge modern techniques to perform the human's responsibility to the nature which is based on Islamic values.

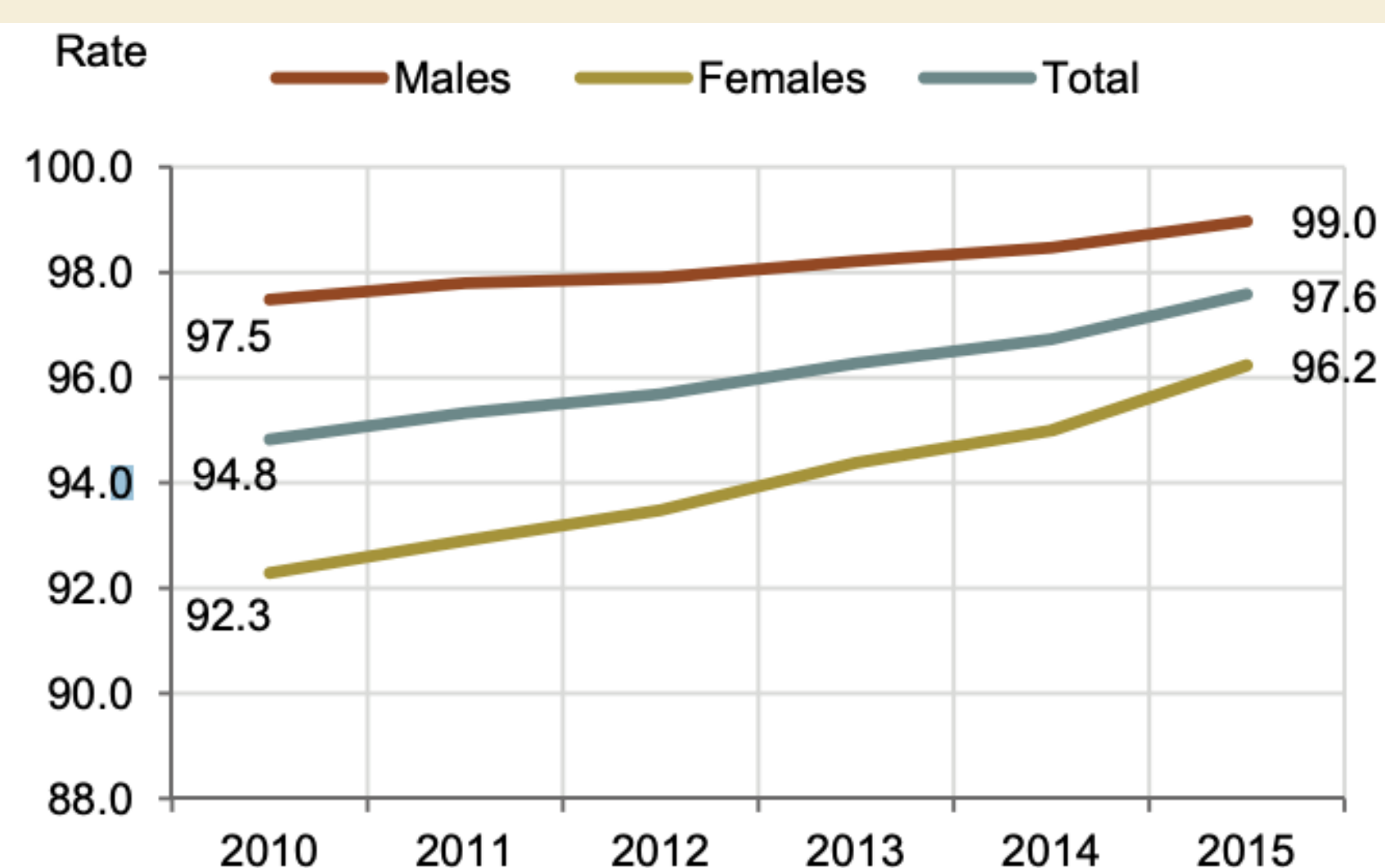
METHODS

Observations in Doha between 2019-2021
This study based on the personal observation and research of the researcher. The statistical data used on the research obtained from the official sources.

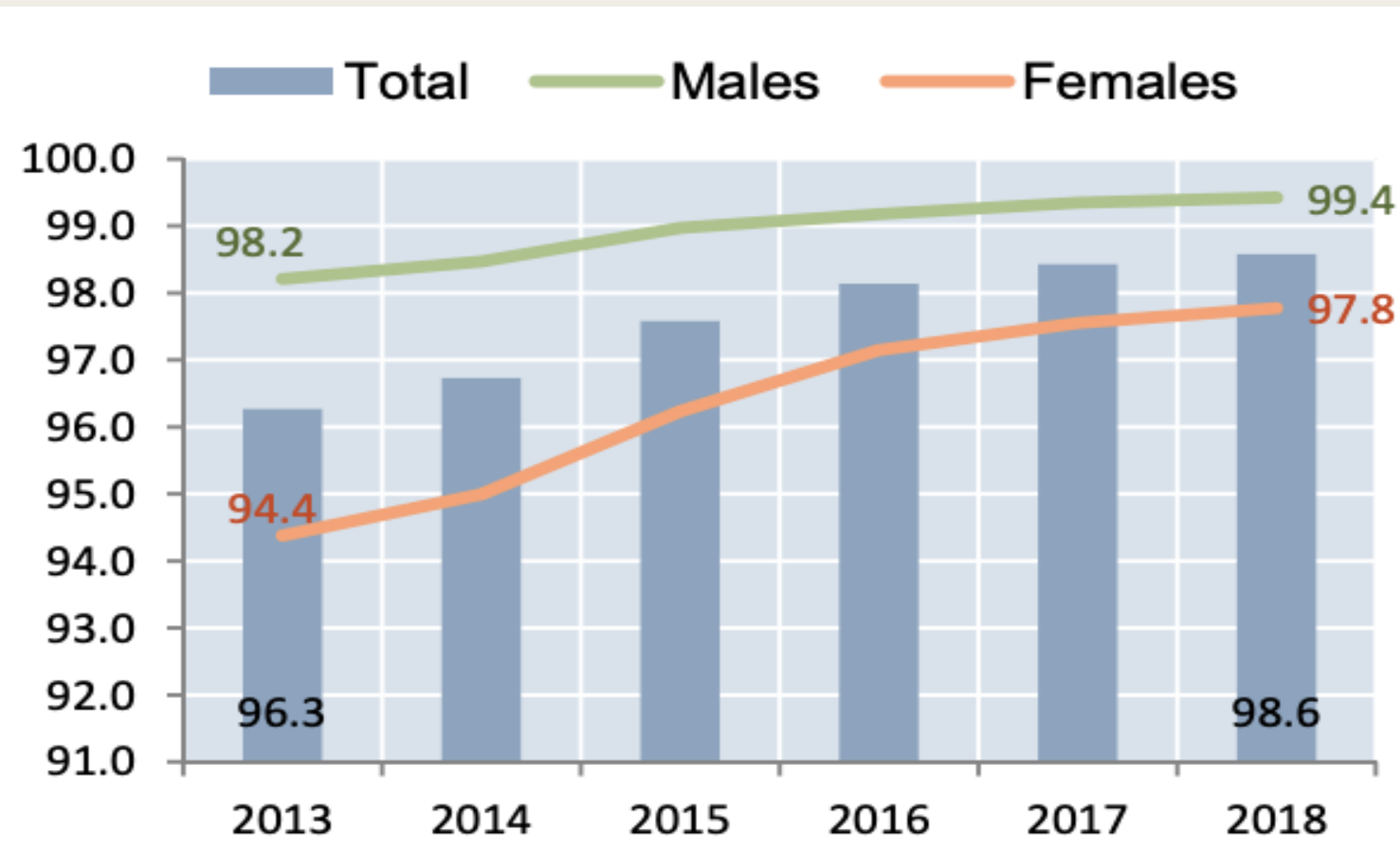
DISCUSSION

Qatar has been following a path of modernization via smart cities theory smart society, development and environment is the main pillars of that path. In addition of that Qatari modernization is based on the protection of Muslim, Arab, Khaleeji identity together.

- Smart Society: The development without a human source is not sustainable thus Qatari administration develops project to raise the educational and cultural level of the nationals. Besides, all of these projects contain a massive impact of the culture. Katara, Education City, Qatar University are some examples.
- Smart Development: Infrastructure and transportation are primary notification of the smart development. Doha is now transferring its infrastructure and transportation services into modern integrated systems. The cultural signs also seen on that fields. For instance, the metro services of Doha well established. The logo that they decide to use is the Arabic letter of "mim".
- Smart environment: the administration of Doha has established modern systems to allow the city recycle the wastes. Besides the salination systems allow them to produce a clean water from the Gulf's water. Promoting the protecting the nature and to not waste with the religious references also seen as a combination of the essence to the modernity.



Literacy rates among Qataris (15 years & above) (2010-2015)
Source: Education in Qatar Statistical Profile 2016



Literacy rates among Qataris (15 years & above) (2013-2018)
Source: Education in Qatar Statistical Profile 2019

The raise of literacy from 2010 to 2018 denotes the Qatari development on the education.

Main Pillars of Smart Doha

- Smart Society
- Smart Development
- Smart Environment

This three dimension together create Smart City

THEORETICAL APPROACH AND LITERATURE REVIEW

This study is based on Smart city theories;

Smart city theory is based on the necessity of solving the cities' modern problems, like; infrastructure, traffic, integration, demands of energy, demands of water, etc., with technologic inventions and developments (Harrison & Donnelly, 2011).

A smart city is a prominent geographic area where high technologies collaborated to create smart development benefits that can set rules and policies for welfare, inclusion, environmental quality, city management, and development for citizens (Dameri, 2013) Thus, that can be said; smart cities are well-governed, people-centered, sustainable systems that find solutions to raise the welfare with technologic developments and tools—sustainability of the smart cities bases on the proper design of the society-economy-environment relations.



Source: Qatar National Museum

Architecture of the buildings like Qatar National Museum, Katara cultural village and most of the skyscrapers in the famous Doha landscape is built with the in composition of the modernity and the culture. The national museum is built on the pattern of the desert rose which is a stone found on the Qatari deserts. The Katara cultural village is built with the inspiration of the old Qatari architect besides on their website the administration of Katara denotes their vision to be a world leader for multi-cultural activities.

CONCLUSION

Qatar follows the way of building smart city with the protecting the Muslim, Arab and Khaleeji identity. Main fields that the administration focused are smart society, smart environment and smart development. The wealth and number of population is the advantages of the transformation into the smart city. Qataris are highly cautious to protect the identity and values. The design of projects, naming projects are important details that denoted the combination of identity and smart developments. Raising the education and cultural level of the nationals is also another pillar of the transformation. Moreover, protecting the environment via Islamic references indicates Qatari goal of building a modern community which has strong link with their belief and traditions.

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