



Ziarat Hossain



Sadia Shaukat

Title: Gender Role Belief Predictors of Husbands' and Wives' Involvement in Household Labor in Kuwaiti and Qatari Families

Abstract:

Couched within the bioecological systems theory, this paper examined 1) whether Kuwaiti and Qatari husbands and wives differed in their sex-role belief structure regarding the spousal distribution of household labor in the family, and 2) the influence of sex-role beliefs on their involvement in five domains of household labor (housework, meal preparation, laundry, shopping, and maintenance). Couples from 137 Qatari and 125 Kuwaiti families participated in the study and were interviewed separately to collect the data. Multivariate Analysis of Variance revealed husbands and wives differed significantly in their sex-role beliefs in both countries. Compared to husbands, wives showed stronger personal and cultural sex-role beliefs but similar religious beliefs toward the spousal distribution of household labor in Kuwait. In Qatar, wives showed higher personal, cultural, and religious sex-role beliefs than husbands did. Regression analyses showed personal, cultural, and religious belief structures did not uniformly influence husbands' and wives' involvement in housework, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, keeping track of expenses, and maintenance in both countries. Broadly speaking, personal beliefs positively but religious or cultural beliefs negatively influenced husbands' and wives' involvement in various household labor. The findings are discussed within the changing sociocultural contexts of sex roles in understudied Arab communities.

Bio:

Dr. Ziarat Hossain is a Professor of Family and Child Studies and Regents' Lecturer at the University of New Mexico and is the Chair of the Department of Individual, Family and Community Education in the College of Education and Human Sciences at UNM. He received a PhD in Child and Family Studies from Syracuse University and did post-doctoral research training at the University of Miami Medical School in Florida. His research focuses on parenting, child development, globalization, and sex roles across cultural communities. In particular, his research systematically documents patterns of fathers' and mothers' involvement in childcare and household labor in diverse cultural groups. He is a former Society for Cross-Cultural Research (SCCR) president and Fulbright Scholar.



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QATAR UNIVERSITY



Bio:

Dr Sadia Shaukat teaches educational psychology, learning theories and psychological testing in the Faculty of Education, University of Education, Pakistan. She has a Masters degree in Education and a PhD in Teacher Education, and has published widely in areas of teacher efficacy, teacher education and professional standards for the teachers.
