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## Session 2: Societal Familism and Policymaking Challenges in the Gulf

By Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

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**Dr Khalid Al Naama**  
And  
**Buthaina Al Khelaifi**

**Title: Family Cohesion Index in Qatar**

### **Abstract:**

This project aims to understand the concept of family cohesion, and attempts to measure ‘family cohesion’ in Qatar. A questionnaire was adapted from several validated scales, testing many aspects related to this greater theme of family cohesion, such as parental and marital relationships, shared morals, work-family balance, family interaction, care and support, family conflict mechanisms, and levels of satisfaction. With the use of a statistical program (STATA), a descriptive bivariate analysis was conducted. Moreover, an inferential analysis was obtained to analyze the data by fitting a logistic regression model to test the hypothesis. The findings show that improved family support, the presence of shared morals, and greater family satisfaction led to increased family cohesion, and these relationships were statistically significant. In contrast, greater parental relationships with children were associated with lower family cohesion, possibly due to increased parental control, which creates challenges within the family. This study provides great insights pertaining to factors affecting family cohesion. Further research is required to unravel the family dynamics specific to Qatar.

### **Bio:**

*Buthaina Al Khelaifi is a Senior Research Assistant at the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI). She is currently a PhD candidate with the Gulf Studies Program in Qatar University. Buthaina’s research interests focuses on political and social issues in the MENA region, specifically in Qatar. She specializes in public opinion survey research, exploring state-society relationship, and nationals’ political orientations.*

## Bio:

*Khalid J. Al-Naama holds the position of Director of the Family Research and Policy Department (FRPD) at the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI). He worked with the CDC in the Ministry of Public Health with a focus on policies related to family care and sexual health. Also, during his time at Qatar Gas, he participated in developing policies and procedures for crisis communication and assisted in developing the strategic plan for employee technical competencies. Khalid holds a postgraduate qualification in applied psychology from the University of Liverpool, UK, where his master's thesis was published in the International Journal of Technology and Management, and he holds a PhD in psychology from the University of Huddersfield, UK, and a scientific poster for his PhD thesis was published at the University of King Nayef for Security Sciences during the Fifth International Conference of the Arab Society for Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine, along with some other professional trainings that focus on family well-being and mental health.*