

# January 2024 Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event Name
24-25 April 2024	Economic, Social and Cultural Transformation for Sustainable Development Conference
16 May 2024	Workshop Series Theme 2: Dynamics of Education, and Skill Competencies Perceived Essential for Employment Opportunities
30 September 2024	Qatar Education Study Results Workshop
30 October 2024	Human and Energy and Sustainability Symposium
12 November 2024	Workshop Series Theme 3: Qatarization Policy in Qatar

## News

### Qatar University Organized a Seminar Titled “Understanding Family Cohesion in Qatar”



The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University (QU), in collaboration with the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), organized a seminar titled 'Understanding Family Cohesion in Qatar.' This seminar aims to share and discuss the results of the study on family cohesion in Qatar, affirming the comprehensive approach to the family cohesion framework and continuing its implementation.

The seminar was attended by Prof. Mariam Al-Ali Al-Maadeed, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at QU; Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, Director of SESRI; and Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi, Executive Director of DIFI, along with executives from various government entities, academic researchers, stakeholders, and those interested in this field.

The study and seminar aim to measure the concept of family cohesion in Qatar through scientific based on studies and increasing awareness of family cohesion research. It also aims to connect researchers with stakeholders, beneficiaries, and relevant parties in both the private and public sectors. The presentation of recent results related to the concept of family cohesion in Qatar seeks to attract a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss their experiences on this important topic.

### **Appointment of Dr. Noora Lari as a representative of Qatar in WAPOR**

The field of public opinion is one of the most important areas in opinion polling. This field is represented by several international organizations that help develop ethical standards for public opinion research. The most prominent of these organizations is the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR), which was founded in 1947. WAPOR has promoted professional, ethical standards and techniques in polling internationally for more than 70 years. The association publishes the International Journal of Public Opinion Research and holds an annual conference in various countries where researchers, academics, businesspeople, and government officials attend various sessions to exchange experiences and develop public opinion research in diverse specializations.

In this context, Dr. Noora Lari was appointed as a representative of the State of Qatar in the association for the fourth consecutive year. Dr. Lari contributes in providing vital information regarding important developments in opinion polling and opinion research in Qatar by presenting the latest research topics, methods of data collection and methods of maintaining data quality through publications, seminars, and the annual conferences hosted by the association. To view the list of WAPOR National Representatives, please visit the following link:

<https://wapor.org/about-wapor/leadership/national-representatives/>

### **An agreement with the Ministry of Municipality to study and estimate the numbers of stray animals**

Qatar University and the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (Baladiya) sign a cooperation agreement aiming to estimate the number of stray animals in the State of Qatar. A research team from SESRI developed a study based on the management of dog populations' document issued in 1990 by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and subsequent guidelines. The study's results are expected to identify stray dog breeds, characteristics, and their locations within the country's regions, predicting their future numbers, enabling the preparation of plans and strategies for their control, providing suitable shelter environments, and preventing them from contracting and spreading diseases.



### Published study entitled “Webinars for teacher professional development: Perceptions of members of a virtual professional community of practice”

Dr. Tarek Shal and others Published a study entitled “Webinars for teacher professional development: Perceptions of members of a virtual professional community of practice.” This study explores the significance of webinars as tools for supporting teachers’ professional development and growth beyond the Covid-19 pandemic, as perceived by the teachers



themselves. The study employs a mixed method approach, involving 394 teachers registered on a popular virtual community of practice (vCoP) who completed a survey, with twenty of them participating in focus group interviews. Quantitative data from the survey were statistically analyzed using SPSS 25.0, while qualitative data from the focus group interviews underwent theme-based analysis. The findings suggest that teachers highly regard webinars as effective tools for professional development and believe that webinars should be an integral part of future teacher development programs within the framework of blended learning models. The key strengths and weaknesses of webinars as tools for supporting teacher professional development are thoroughly addressed.

Educators strongly prefer webinars for teacher professional development, citing their effectiveness in both online and in-person teaching, aiding information exchange, and issue resolution. Despite concerns about technical issues and distractions hindering teacher interaction, webinars are valued for their cost-effectiveness, global accessibility, and trend awareness. Challenges include time constraints for practical application. The future outlook is promising due to differentiated development and flexible learning, with webinars expected to complement, not replace, in-person opportunities.

### An innovative model dedicated to research training in STEM fields

Dr. Elmogiera Elawad from SESRI, in collaboration with researchers from the Young Scientists Center and the summer training program at Qatar University, published an article in the Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning journal. The study suggested an innovative model for results-oriented research training, where internal research training is an integral part of university programs that nurture students' skills. The current trend in these trainings adopts direct industrial apprenticeship through what is often referred to as the cookbook model, but the study believes that the existing model does not meet the development of 21st-century skills. Therefore, this study proposed an innovative model for results-oriented research training called ODRIM designed to enhance research competencies.

A pre-test and post-test were designed for a group of participating students divided into two groups, and statistical analysis was conducted on data collected from 66 participants to evaluate them. The results revealed a significant positive difference in the use of designed innovations, particularly showing that this innovative training model significantly enhanced the students' capabilities.



## SESRI Launches New Study on Consumption Values, Behavior and Spending Preferences in Qatar

Prof. Arokiasamy Perianayagam, Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim and Dr. Mohammed Rashid Memon contributed to the QU Research Magazine December 2023 issue on the following topic: "SESRI Launches New National Study on Consumption Values, Behavior and Spending Preferences in Qatar." The article highlights the importance of measuring consumption values and behaviour among Qataris and non-Qatari white expatriates. Qatar has high levels of consumption (particularly food, water, and energy) with critical implications for sustainability. With the backdrop of high carbon emissions and expenditure levels independent of income, designing programs to reach different stakeholders requires a deeper understanding of what drives consumption decision making for different people in Qatar. The objective of this study is to investigate the dimensions of behavioural economics that are related to higher order choices in consumption preferences, budget planning and consumption spending, sustainability of consumer spending, appreciation of environmental issues and healthy lifestyles, economic expectations, and wealth creation. This study incorporates a national population-based household representative survey of 2000 households in Qatar with a disaggregated sample size of 1000 households of Qatari nationals and 1000 households of white-collar expatriates. The study embraces a multidisciplinary approach employing multidimensional measurement scales to assess economic, socio-cultural, and psychological values as well as the environmental perceptions related to consumption behaviour. The study aligns with Qatar's National Vision 2030 which identifies environmental responsibility as a key policy priority. Please refer to article on page number 75 in the following link: [https://www.qu.edu.qa/static\\_file/qu/research/magazine/english-20.pdf](https://www.qu.edu.qa/static_file/qu/research/magazine/english-20.pdf)

## Upcoming Projects

### Qatar Youth Longitudinal Survey

In February, SESRI is set to field the second wave of the Qatar Youth Longitudinal Survey, a groundbreaking project funded by the Qatar National Research Fund and led by Dr. Noora Lari. Longitudinal data is increasingly recognized as the gold standard for drawing causal inferences from observational data on human subjects. This innovative study allows us to provide a dynamic portrayal of how life experiences and outcomes evolve over time. Given the study's focus on understanding youth transitions in gender attitudes, education, and employment, we will gather data from the same individuals surveyed in Wave 1.

### Indoor Air Pollution in Qatar

In February, SESRI will field a groundbreaking study titled "Indoor Air Pollution in Qatar," led by Dr. Sana Abusin. This study aims to raise awareness about the adverse effects of indoor air pollution. Despite the prevalent focus on outdoor pollution in GCC countries, there is a significant gap in understanding indoor air quality and its correlation with outdoor pollution.

This pioneering study, the first of its kind in Qatar, specifically delves into the impact of burning incense and candles on human health. Given the challenging meteorological conditions in the Gulf region that lead to prolonged indoor stays, the research underscores the growing concern for indoor air quality. Furthermore, the study provides strategies to mitigate pollution concentration in indoor environments, addressing a crucial aspect of environmental health.