

# February 2024 Newsletter

## News

### Participation in TAD Bootcamp Camp 2024

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute participated in the fifth Annual TAD Training Camp from 5-7 February, 2024, at the Research Complex (H10). The event was organized by the Office of Graduate Learning Support (GLS) under the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. Researchers from the institute



provided support on conducting surveys and interviews, as well as offering feedback to graduate students regarding their data, research, survey development, analysis plans, and providing an overview during the event days about the services offered by the institute.

### The National Identity in Qatar Workshop

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University organized a workshop titled “The National Identity in Qatar”, On 27 February 2024. The workshop was attended by HE Mr. Khalid bin Nasser bin Ghanim Al-Maadheed, a member of Qatar’s Shura Council and the Director of Wijdan Cultural Center; Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Buainain, the Secretary-General of Qatar National Archive; Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Al-Samih, Director of the Community Police Department, and Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, Director of SESRI, along with stakeholders, researchers, and academics interested in this field.

The workshop aims to define the concept of national identity in the State of Qatar through scientifically based studies, contribute to the scientific field related to national identity in Qatar, and connect researchers with stakeholders, beneficiaries, and relevant parties in both the private and public sectors to discuss their experiences on this subject. The workshop also seeks to share and discuss the study’s results.





The workshop included a presentation of the study's results by researcher Fahad Al-Buainain and a panel discussion with the participation of Mr. Khalid bin Nasser bin Ghanim Al-Maadheed, a member of Qatar's Shura Council and the Director of Wijdan Cultural Center; Dr. Jassim Sultan, a Qatari thinker and strategic advisor; Prof. Hassan Al-Sayed, a constitutional law professor at QU; Ms. Maryam Yassin Al-Hammadi, Director of the Department of Culture and Arts at the Ministry of Culture; and Dr. Buthaina Al-Janahi, the founder and CEO of Qalam Hebr Company.

The concluding remarks underscored several key points imperative for the preservation and enhancement of Qatari national identity. Firstly, there is an emphasis on the ongoing application of studies that delve into the evolution of national identity over time, fostering a comprehensive understanding of its dynamic nature. Additionally, a crucial aspect involves acknowledging the potential pitfalls of veering away from the Arabic language, as it is intricately linked to societal identity. This necessitates the implementation of studies aimed at safeguarding the Arabic language.

Moreover, the significance of parental guidance in instilling socially acceptable values in Qatari society is highlighted, recognizing the pivotal role parents play in shaping the perspectives of the younger generation. Public institutions are urged to play a vital role in educating Qatari families about the potential repercussions of relying heavily on domestic workers, emphasizing the potential negative impact on Qatari identity, particularly in the context of family life and child upbringing.

The workshop stressed the paramount importance of speaking Arabic with children and promoting the use of the Arabic language in educational and work places. Furthermore, it underscored the need to instill national values in the youth and foster a commitment to the elements that constitute national identity. Building on the study's findings, which indicate high levels of pride in national identity and belonging, it is deemed necessary to continue existing initiatives such as National Day celebrations and adherence to official dress codes. These activities serve as vital components in reinforcing and perpetuating the rich tapestry of Qatari national identity.



## Recent Publications

### Leadership Styles and AI Acceptance in Academic Libraries in Higher Education

Dr. Tarek Shal form SESRI published a new research paper in collaboration with two fellow researchers. This study explored the relationship between the leadership styles adopted by academic librarians and their openness to artificial intelligence (AI). The purpose was to discern whether particular leadership approaches influence librarians' attitudes and acceptance of AI technologies in higher education. Data was collected from 50 librarians across four Arab countries. Two distinct questionnaires were administered to the participants: the first focused on their perceptions of AI, exploring attitudes, beliefs, and understanding of AI technologies, while the second implemented the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ 5x) to assess the librarians' leadership styles. Correlational analysis, inferential statistics including structural equation model, and regression analysis were employed leading to explore the predictive power of various leadership styles on librarians' openness to AI.

Findings suggest that the implementation of AI in academic libraries is most likely to occur under transformational leadership, with transactional leadership being associated with suboptimal outcomes; a noteworthy association is

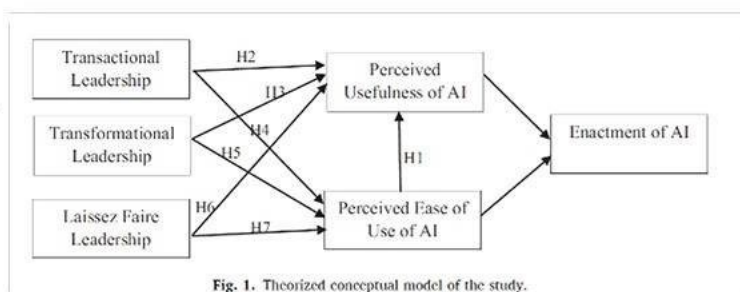


Fig. 1. Theorized conceptual model of the study.

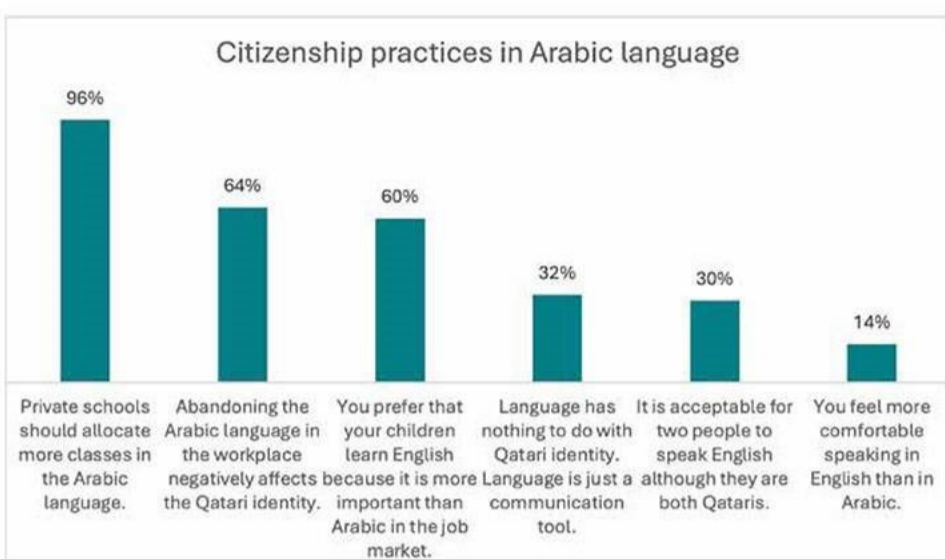
observed between the perception of ease of use and the adoption of laissez-faire leadership. The insights derived from this study hold particular significance for the development of librarians' professional training programs, offering valuable guidance on fostering adaptive leadership strategies that align with the evolving landscape of AI integration within academic library settings.



## National Identity

Here are some results of the National Identity survey, where the survey covered the opinions of a large sample of Qatari citizens, totaling 1,202 individuals, regarding the concept of national identity and its relation to some relevant issues. The survey was designed and conducted according to the highest scientific and ethical standards; following are some of the key points.

### Arabic Language Aspect



Language is considered one of the most important features for embodying national identity and highlighting its characteristics towards others. It serves as the epitome of societal identity and the fundamental element in nation-building within this context. Respondents were asked about their opinions regarding several statements related to the language aspect of national identity. 60% of the respondents agreed that they prefer their children to learn English because it is the most important language in the job market, compared to 40% who disagreed. It is worth noting that 86% of the respondents don't feel more comfortable when speaking English more than Arabic. Additionally, 68% of the sample perceive a correlation between language and Qatari identity, while 96% believe that private schools should allocate more class time to teaching Arabic.

### National Identity Threats

The results showed an awareness among the sample individuals regarding the threats to national identity. The majority of respondents (94%) agreed that there is an attraction among youth to imitate Western culture, while 93% acknowledged a reliance on servants in child rearing. Furthermore, 90% agreed that the celebrations of Christmas/Halloween/Valentine's Day, as well as the spread of Western clothing (84%), Western music concerts (84%), and individuals prioritizing their own interests over collective interests (81%), are all seen as elements posing a threat to Qatari societal identity. A lower percentage of respondents identified increases in the non-Muslim population (69%), the proliferation of social media (64%), marriage between Qataris and foreigners (58%), satellite channels (56%), Western art exhibitions (48%), Qatari children attending foreign schools (46%), increases in the foreign population (43%), and the spread of English language usage (41%) as threats to Qatari identity. Awareness is lower towards other threats to national identity, such as the presence of foreign tourists (31%) and traveling for tourism (11%). This indicates the need to increase awareness about the long-term threats to national identity and ways to address them.

Threat	Elements
94%	Youth's attraction to imitating Western culture
93%	Relying on servants in raising children
90%	Celebrating Christmas\Halloween\Valentine's day
84%	Western-style clothing
84%	Western music concerts
81%	Favoring individual interests over collective interests
69%	The increase of non-Muslims
64%	Social media
58%	Marriage between Qataris and foreigners
56%	Satellite TV channels collective interests
48%	Western art galleries
46%	Enrollment of Qatari children in foreign schools
43%	Increase in the percentage of expatriates in the country
41%	The widespread use of the English language
31%	Foreign tourists
11%	Traveling for tourism

The questionnaire in 2022 has undergone significant improvements compared to the previous 2018 wave. Several enhancements have been implemented to enhance its effectiveness and reliability. The revisions encompassed various aspects, including the clarity of questions, the structure of the survey, and the incorporation of more nuanced inquiries. These modifications aim to gather more precise and comprehensive data, ensuring a more thorough understanding of the national identity.

However, upon comparing the results of the two waves, it appears that some celebrations are perceived as more threatening to Qatari identity, such as Christmas and music concerts in 2022 compared to 2018. Moreover, Qataris seem to be more aware of the importance of expatriates for the country's development, with only 43% considering the rise in the proportion of foreigners as a threat compared to the previous 54%. Previously, 88% of respondents believed that their children should learn in English at schools because it is the most important language in the job market, whereas now only 60% hold this view in this wave. Lastly, it appears that there are more imposed cultural norms in 2018 related to marriage, work, and spousal selection based on tribal affiliations than in 2022 as shown in the table below:

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Sept. 2022</b>	<b>Feb. 2018</b>
I prefer that my children learn English because it is more important than Arabic in the job market.I prefer that my children learn English because it is more important than Arabic in the job market.	<b>60%</b>	<b>88%</b>
The influence of tribal affiliation in making important life decisions: Marriage	<b>59%</b>	<b>64%</b>
The influence of tribal affiliation in making important life decisions: choosing a place of residence	<b>44%</b>	<b>56%</b>
The influence of tribal affiliation in making important life decisions: Choosing the nature of work	<b>37%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Celebrating Christmas	<b>90%</b>	<b>81%</b>
The increase of foreigners	<b>43%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Western music concerts	<b>84%</b>	<b>72%</b>