

May 2023 Newsletter

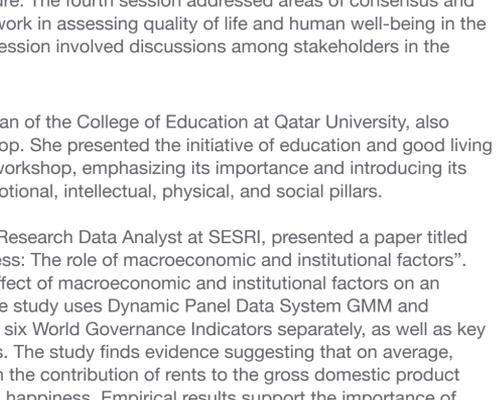
Events

Organizing a Research Event Titled "Sustainability of Urban Life in Qatar and the Gulf Region"

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University organized a research event titled "Sustainability of Urban Life in Qatar and the Gulf Region: Workshop on Measures and Methodologies," sponsored and funded by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The event was attended by His Excellency Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Subaie, Minister of Municipality; His Excellency Dr. Hassan bin Rashid Al-Derham, President of Qatar University; Dr. Kaltham bin Ali Al-Ghanim, Director of the Institute; Dr. Mehmet Duman, Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA); an accompanying delegation; and several university staff members.



During the workshop, several discussion panels and research dialogues took place. The first session focused on the concepts, indicators, and multidimensional framework of sustainability. The second session revolved around the multidimensional concepts of quality of life and human well-being.



The third session covered the framework and methods for building a multidimensional urban quality of life structure. The fourth session addressed areas of consensus and areas that require further work in assessing quality of life and human well-being in the Gulf region, and the fifth session involved discussions among stakeholders in the urban policy field.

Dr. Hessa Al Thani, the Dean of the College of Education at Qatar University, also participated in the workshop. She presented the initiative of education and good living in the first session of the workshop, emphasizing its importance and introducing its components: spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, and social pillars.

Brian Mandikiana, Senior Research Data Analyst at SESRI, presented a paper titled "Causal effects of happiness: The role of macroeconomic and institutional factors". The study examines the effect of macroeconomic and institutional factors on an indicator of happiness. The study uses Dynamic Panel Data System GMM and considers the effect of the six World Governance Indicators separately, as well as key macroeconomic indicators. The study finds evidence suggesting that on average, inflation and an increase in the contribution of rents to the gross domestic product have a negative impact on happiness. Empirical results support the importance of increasing income, maintaining low levels of inflation and improving the quality of institutions, especially voice and accountability. In addition to other papers of paramount importance in the field of quality of urban life and the factors affecting it. You can view a full recording of the papers presented in the workshop through the following links:

Day one:
<https://qu-edu.webex.com/qu-edu/ldr.php?RCID=b269d68eb310ea6a2359cf95d703feac>

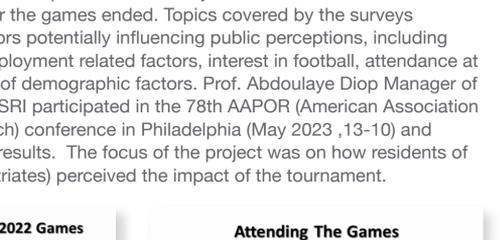
Day two:
<https://qu-edu.webex.com/qu-edu/ldr.php?RCID=49bab886adcc0177a4e35fa387501d51>

It is worth mentioning that there were sub-working sessions, with the first group focusing on sustainability, the second group discussing the built environment and urban behavior, and the third working group focusing on urban quality of life and human welfare. The workshop aims to coordinate with relevant entities in urban planning and development policies to establish a multidimensional framework for well-being and quality of life that can be adopted in Qatar and the Gulf region. It seeks to build a cooperative alliance of experts from Qatar, the Gulf countries, and international institutions to further engage in an agenda for improving methods and metrics for continuous assessment of urban quality of life, as well as enhancing and strengthening the research capabilities of young researchers in Qatar, integrating them into a range of qualitative studies.

News

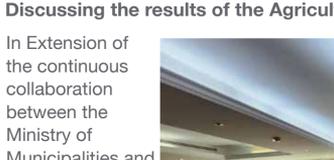
SESRI Obtained Accreditation and Recertification of Quality Management Standards

We are pleased to announce that SESRI obtained accreditation and recertification of quality management standards ISO 9001:2015, globally recognized by Bureau Veritas.



Participation in AAPOR 2023

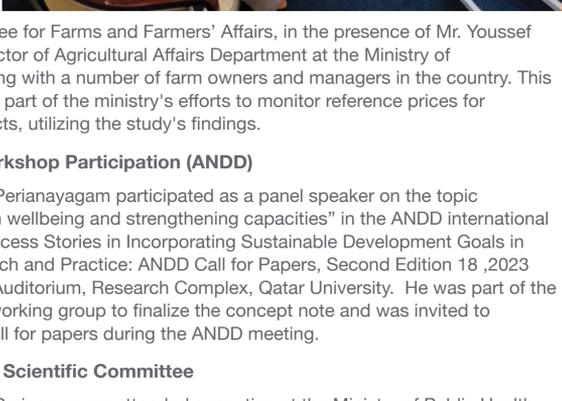
Under the leadership of Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, SESRI Director and Lead Principal Investigator (LPI), SESRI conducted a pre and post study about the FIFA World Cup held in Qatar, titled "Impact of Hosting the FIFA World Cup: Pre and Post-Event Comparison of Residents' Perceptions". The surveys were conducted three weeks prior and three weeks after the games ended. Topics covered by the surveys included a number of factors potentially influencing public perceptions, including proximity to stadiums, employment related factors, interest in football, attendance at the games, and a number of demographic factors. Prof. Abdoulaye Diop Manager of Research Department, SESRI participated in the 78th AAPOR (American Association for Public Opinion Research) conference in Philadelphia (May 2023, 13-10) and presented a paper on the results. The focus of the project was on how residents of Qatar (nationals and expatriates) perceived the impact of the tournament.



A second presentation from SESRI was on a survey experiment. Mr. John Lee Holmes, Head of CATI operations, presented the results of a phone survey that showed variation in responses based on different metrics related to perceptions of air quality in Qatar. The AAPOR annual conference is the largest and most prestigious annual conference for professionals devoted to measuring public opinion.

Discussing the results of the Agricultural Costs Study

In the continuation of the continuous collaboration between the Ministry of Municipalities and SESRI, Dr. Elmogiera Fadlallah Elawad, Section Head of Field Operations at SESRI, discussed the results of the Agricultural Costs Study and net returns with the Standing Committee for Farms and Farmers' Affairs, in the presence of Mr. Youssef Al-Khalifi, the Committee for Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipalities, along with a number of farm owners and managers in the country. This meeting comes as part of the ministry's efforts to monitor reference prices for agricultural products, utilizing the study's findings.



International Workshop Participation (ANDD)

Prof. Arokiasamy Perianayagam participated as a panel speaker on the topic "Success Stories in Incorporating Sustainable Development Goals in Education, Research and Practice: ANDD Call for Papers, Second Edition 18, 2023 May 2023, at the Auditorium, Research Complex, Qatar University. He was part of the ANDD taskforce group to finalize the concept note and was invited to announce 2023 call for papers during the ANDD meeting.

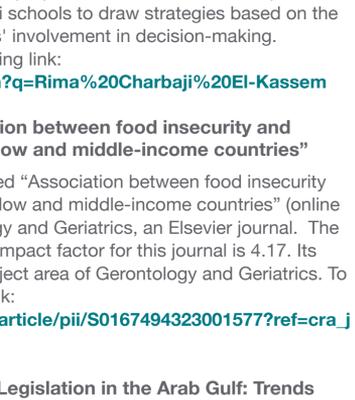
Member of MOH Scientific Committee

Prof. Arokiasamy Perianayagam attended a meeting at the Ministry of Public Health - Scientific Committee on Risk Assessment and Safety Evaluation of Cultured Meat Products on 16 May 2023. He contributed to the discussion on social, community and ethical aspects of risk assessment.

Workshops

Workshop Focusing on Statistical Data Analysis (SPSS) for farms

Dr. Elmogiera Fadlallah Elawad, Section Head of Field Operations at SESRI, conducted a training workshop entitled "Statistical Data Analysis (SPSS) for farms", from May 21 to May 25, 25, in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Affairs in the Ministry of Municipality and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. The workshop was attended by researchers from the Ministry of Municipalities, the Planning and Statistics Authority, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The workshop aimed to provide trainees with a comprehensive understanding of the importance and types of data and their analysis, in addition to enhancing participants' skills in statistical analysis and conducting data for Qatar using Agricultural Census data for 2021-2021.



Recent Publications

A Published Study Entitled as "A Path Causal Model of the Effect of TQM Practices on Teachers' Job Satisfaction in Schools in Qatar"

Rima Charbaji El-Kassem from the Research Department at SESRI published a study entitled as "A path causal model of the effect of TQM practices on teachers' job satisfaction in schools in Qatar". This study aims to examine the relationship between Total Quality Management (TQM) practices and teachers' job satisfaction in Qatar, visualizing this relationship through a path causal model. The path causal model's results revealed that each explanatory variable's direct effect was strengthened via the effect of the other independent variables. The proposed causal model will help policymakers and decision-makers in Qatari schools to draw strategies based on the antecedents and consequences of teachers' involvement in decision-making. To view the full study, please visit the following link:

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/search?q=Rima%20Charbaji%20El-Kassem>

New published paper entitled "Association between food insecurity and quality of life among older adults in six low and middle-income countries"

Prof. Arokiasamy has published a paper titled "Association between food insecurity and quality of life among older adults in six low and middle-income countries" (online first) in the journal of Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics, an Elsevier journal. The paper uses multivariate analysis. The Scopus impact factor for this journal is 4.17. Its current SJR ranking is Q1 journal in the subject area of Gerontology and Geriatrics. To view the article, kindly click on the below link:

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167494323001577?ref=cra_j_s_challenge&fr=RR-1

New published paper entitled "Divorce Legislation in the Arab Gulf: Trends and Educational Differentials"

Dr. Noora Lari and Maryam Fahad Al-Thani published a paper titled "Divorce Legislation in the Arab Gulf: Trends and Educational Differentials" in the Journal of Arabian Studies. In light of the legislation that aims to prevent divorce, the paper examines societal attitudes and demographic patterns, toward divorce predictors and the legislative and family law responses in Qatar society, as a case study in the Gulf Region. The study calls for urgent responses in establishing premarital intervention as means to mitigate the incidence of divorce in the region. To view the article, kindly click on the below link:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/21534764.2021.2039354/10.1080>

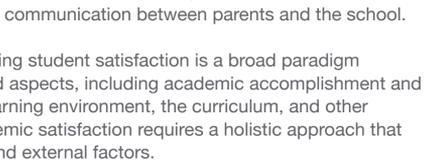
Results of the Institute's Latest Research:

A Report on a Study Entitled School Facilities in Qatar

This report takes part in the Qatar Education Study (QES 2022) conducted by the education team of the Social and Economic Survey Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University. Qatar Education Study is produced every three years by SESRI. It surveys different main themes underlying the K-12 education sector in Qatar and aims to provide educational insights to policymakers for the development and improvement of the quality of education in the state of Qatar, which stands at the heart of Qatar National Vision 2030.

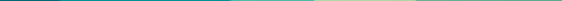
The survey targeted 32 schools (government, international and community), 983 students (grades 11, 9, 8, and 12), 825 students, 358 teachers and 185 administrators. This report addresses specifically school student satisfaction in the state of Qatar; it examines the perceptions of students themselves and their parents on students' satisfaction as main predictors of students' performance. It aims to assess and analyze student satisfaction levels within educational institutions based on data gathered from students, teachers, parents, and school administrators and to provide recommendations on improving student performance.

In general, the majority of students indicated high satisfaction with their school type. Figure 1 reported that the highest level of student satisfaction was noticed in international schools (88%) followed by community schools (80%) and then government schools (75%). However, the results revealed that Qatari students are less satisfied with their schools (73%) compared to (82% of non-Qatari students). Whereas, from a gender perspective, males and females showed approximately similar levels of satisfaction (79% females compared to 81% males).



The report also recorded that the drivers of student satisfaction differ between schools' types. Teaching was reported to be good by the majority of students in the three types of schools, international (93%), community (92%), and government (87%).

Similarly, the majority of students in both government and international schools stated, respectively, "when they put hard efforts in their schoolwork they got praised by their teachers" (87%) and (84%).



From parent's perspectives, both Qatari and Non-Qatari students' parents express same satisfaction in terms of their children having good relationship with their schoolmates

and the fact that school is offering good facilities such as library, sports, facilities etc... Non-Qatari parents' students display higher satisfaction than Qatari parents in regard to that children enjoy going to schools, the curriculum is well prepared, the teachers encourage their children to learn more and achieve better, the school listens to parents' concerns and the level of communication between parents and the school.

The report concluded that evaluating student satisfaction is a broad paradigm involving a variety of elements and aspects, including academic accomplishment and performance, the teaching and learning environment, the curriculum, and other elements. Indeed, ensuring academic satisfaction requires a holistic approach that takes into account both internal and external factors.