

# August 2023 Newsletter

## News

### SESRI Launches New National Study on “Consumption Values and Behaviour and, Spending Preferences Survey in Qatar”

A Research team from the social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI) at Qatar University Launches New National Study on “Consumption Values and Behaviour and, Spending Preferences Survey in Qatar”. The study team were Prof. Arokiasamy Perianayagam, LPI, Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, PI, and Dr. Rashid Memon, PI.

This study emphasizes the importance of a national population-based assessment of consumption values, consumer choices, and spending preferences in Qatar to monitor various dimensions of economic, social, and human well-being in the society. Additionally, the study aims to evaluate unsustainable consumption patterns and their impact on the citizen’s capabilities of savings, debts, and wealth creation.

The study adopts a multidisciplinary approach and employs multidimensional measurement scales to assess socio-cultural and psychological values related to consumption behaviour. A national population-based household representative survey of Qatar is planned adopting a multistage stratified sampling approach, aiming to generate new data that align with Qatar’s development and research strategies, providing benchmark measures for policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers regarding consumption values, preferences, behaviour, income, debts, savings, and economic well-being.



### Published Paper Titled “Contemporary Women in Qatar: An Ethnographic Study of Their Challenges in Terms of Traditional Applications and Modern Requirements”

A paper titled “Contemporary Women in Qatar: An Ethnographic Study of Their Challenges in Terms of Traditional Applications and Modern Requirements,” led by Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, Director of the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (SESRI), has been published in SAGE Open journal.

The paper analyses the interaction and friction between tradition and modernity as experienced by Qatari women. The paper explores the experiences and perspectives of contemporary Qatari women across generations and their continuity and friction with the historical sociocultural past. The general aim was to discern and analyze the sociological reasons that encourage and/or inhibit women’s participation in public life. To view this paper, kindly visit:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/21582440231196030/10.1177>

## Recent Publications

### New Releases of Policy Department: A Policy Brief

The Policy Department at SESRI released its newest policy brief for May 2023, entitled “Public Opinion on Academic Fraud and Higher Education Certificate Forgeries.” This brief focuses on corrupt practices that hinder educational sustainability. The data was collected as part of SESRI’s Qatar Semi-Annual Survey (QSAS) project. The brief describes the factors affecting educational sustainability, such as academic fraud and the counterfeiting of higher education certificates, to improve understanding of public opinions about fraudulent academic behaviour, difficulties in detecting forgeries, and the severity of punishment and to provide strategies to enhance compliance with educational regulations. The insights drawn from this brief present fundamental preconditions for improving and sustaining education policies as part of Qatar National Vision 2030. It also provides valuable data for decision-makers and scholars in the field.

To view this policy brief, kindly visit the SESRI publication page through this link :

[sesri.qu.edu.qa/research/sesri/publications](https://sesri.qu.edu.qa/research/sesri/publications)



### New Published Paper Entitled “Adopting a Gender Quota Policy in Qatar”

Dr. Noora Lari, Policy Department Manager at SESRI, published a paper titled “Adopting a gender quota policy in Qatar” in the journal Gender in Management. In light of the legislation that aims to increase women’s participation in the political sphere, the adoption of the electoral quota system (which allocates seats for women in administrative and legislative councils) is considered one of the best opportunities for women to obtain seats and represent their interests in political institutions. The quota system receives international support and has proven effective in accelerating women’s representation at the political level. This study uses a telephone survey to identify public opinion about the gender quota system for women in leadership and political positions. The paper then discusses the extent of the system’s effectiveness in Qatari society, where women were more supportive of the system than men. The results indicate that the quota system is a short-term solution, as there is a call for a more comprehensive approach that includes state-directed initiatives enhancing women’s political participation.

To view the article, kindly click on the below link:

Lari, N. (2023), "Adopting a gender quota policy in Qatar: a path to gender equity", Gender in Management. <https://doi.org/10.1108/GM-0114-2022-04>

### New Published Paper Entitled “An Evaluation of the Alignment of Surplus Food Recovery and Redistribution Technologies with the Circular Economy”

Dr. Sana Abusin, researcher Noor Al Emadi and researcher Brian Washington have published an article “An Evaluation of the Alignment of Surplus Food Recovery and Redistribution Technologies with the Circular Economy” in the journal Sustainability. The article presents a study that provided basic information on the development of an innovative mobile application that addresses food insecurity and waste in Qatar. The article further discusses how this app and its proposed features align with the circular economy concept, which aims to prolong the useful life of materials and products to maximize resource value and reduce waste. In addition, the article highlights the main potential benefits of the app to Qatar economy’s various stakeholders. This study is necessary because the use of its featured app in the food sector could provide optimal ways of managing and reducing food surplus waste and loss and because this study offers significant solutions to many problems of the diverse stakeholders in the surplus food recovery and redistribution industry. The suggested app differs from the existing food services app as it closes the food circle.

The article concludes with suggestions for enabling public-private collaboration to help recover surplus food and reduce food loss.

To view the article, kindly click on the below link:

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su151612355>

### New Published Paper Entitled “Global Effect of Modifiable Risk Factors on Cardiovascular Disease and Mortality”

Prof. Arokiasamy Perianayagam published an article entitled “Global Effect of Modifiable Risk Factors on Cardiovascular Disease and Mortality” in the New England Journal of Medicine, the world’s no.1 medical journal with impact factor of 176. Prof. Perianayagam was part of the Global Cardiovascular Risk Consortium, which published the paper.

To read and access the paper please follow the link:

[https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2206916?query=featured\\_home](https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2206916?query=featured_home)

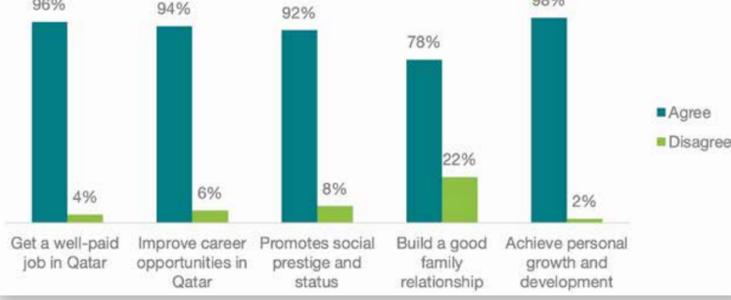
## SESRI’s Latest Research Results

### SESRI Conducted the "Qataris' Perceptions of University Degree" Project in Collaboration with Waseda University

SESRI conducted the "Qataris' Perceptions of University Degree" project in collaboration with Waseda University. This survey was conducted over the phone during October and November 2022. This research study aimed to investigate the perceptions of Qataris over the age of 18 regarding university degrees, as well as their expectations of higher education and career prospects. The survey results shed light on how Qataris perceive the value of a university degree in relation to employment, society and family relationships.

The vast majority of Qatari nationals agreed that pursuing university education helps in getting a well-paid job in Qatar (96%) and can enhance career opportunities (94%) as shown in Figure 1. Similarly, a vast majority (92%) of the participants believed that university education promotes social status and prestige in the country. In terms of family relationships, slightly more than three quarters (78%) of the respondents agreed that pursuing university education is beneficial in building a good family relationship. Notably, the ultimate majority (98%) of the respondents agreed that university education aids in achieving personal growth and development.

Figure 1: Perceived Value of University Education



The growing economic disparity and employment gap between those with and without bachelor’s degrees over the past few years have led students to consider higher education as a pathway for future employment. The majority (86%) of respondents in this survey reported that university graduates are well prepared to enter the job market in Qatar, as shown in Figure 2. Moreover, just more than half (57%) of the respondents believed that university graduates can secure high-status jobs easily in Qatar. Notably, 40 percent of the university graduates believe that university graduates can secure high-status jobs easily in other countries.

Figure 2: Preparation for the Job Market & High Status Jobs

