

September 2023 Newsletter

Recent Publications

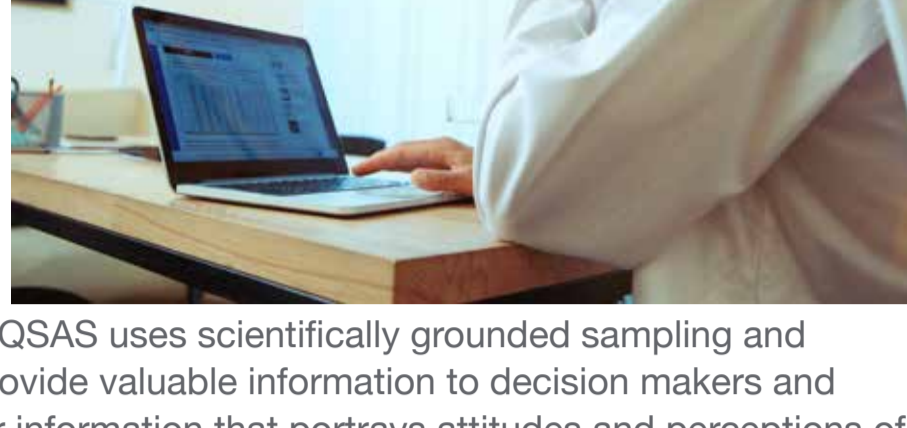
Published Article on SDGs

Professor Kaltham Al-Ghanim, director of the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute with the independent team preparing the United Nations International Sustainable Development Report, published an article titled "What scientists need to do to accelerate progress on the SDGs" in Nature journal (impact factor 64.8). The article discusses the challenges associated with achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and emphasizes the need for improved governance processes to make progress. It highlights that SDG progress depends on various governance approaches, but they vary significantly across nations and sectors. While the SDGs are not legally binding, efforts like Voluntary National Reviews and Voluntary Local Reviews have emerged to monitor and report on SDG implementation. The article concludes by suggesting that scientists should develop criteria to evaluate the impact of different SDG governance processes and advocates for a shift from "accommodative" strategies to "transformative" ones. It also stresses the importance of integrating the SDGs into strategic planning, legislative, and budget processes, as well as enhancing accountability mechanisms through empirical insights and legislative actions to ensure the goals' success. The article emphasizes the urgency of collective action by researchers, institutions, and funders to safeguard the SDGs, the planet, and human society.

To view the whole article visit the following link:
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d02808-023-41586-x>

New Releases of Policy Department: A Policy Report

The Policy Department at SESRI released its newest policy report for September 2023, entitled "Qatar Semi-Annual Survey Results (QSAS)" which is conducted twice a year to investigate prevailing attitudes and behaviors surrounding several socio-economic issues in the State of Qatar. The overall objective of the QSAS is to provide research-based and unbiased polling on questions of national interest to Qatar. The QSAS uses scientifically grounded sampling and interviewing methodologies to provide valuable information to decision makers and scholars. The report aims to offer information that portrays attitudes and perceptions of Qatari nationals and white-collar expatriates toward various aspects related to work and welfare, personal financial planning, youth empowerment, and educational sustainability.



To view this policy Report, kindly visit the SESRI publication page at:
www.sesri.qu.edu.qa/research/sesri/publications

News

Roundtable Discussion: Developing Mobile Application to Sustain Food Waste

The Policy Department at SESRI held a round table discussion on developing a mobile application that helps sustain food waste, in collaboration with Waste and Recycling Management from the Ministry of Municipality and other representatives of charitable entities in Qatar. The round table discussion aimed to engage stakeholders in this field to reach sustainable solutions in food security by collaborating with all relevant entities, thus developing effective strategies that assist in the efficient management of food waste and reduction of wastage through coordinating with related sectors.



A Workshop to Present the Results of the Qatari Youth Project

On 10 September 2023, the Social and Economic Survey Research Institute at Qatar University held a workshop to present the results of the outputs of a the research project entitled "Gender, Education, and Employment Transitions in Qatar: Implementing the First Survey of Qatari Youth", funded by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The research team finalized the project report, which aims to understand the challenges and opportunities related to youth empowerment in the State of Qatar through implementing the first survey study that provides researchers and policy makers with data on improving policies, plans, and activities related to empowering Qatari youth in the areas of education, labor market, family building, civic participation, and quality of life.



The workshop was chaired by Dr. Noora Lari, the project's LPI and director of the Policy Department. Joining her were Dr. Abdul Latif Salami, director of the Educational Research Center at Qatar University, and Dr. Azza Abdel Moneim, a family affairs expert from the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI). The purpose of this workshop was to present key topics of the study, primary findings, and policy implications related to youth empowerment. In addition to youth's perspectives on education, their involvement in the job market, family dynamics, civic engagement, and mental well-being.

The workshop was attended by several representatives from governmental and semi-governmental agencies, including the Ministry of Social Development and Family, the Ministry of Sports and Youth, Qatar Foundation for Social Work, Qatar Finance and Business Academy, the Social Development Centre (Nama), and Hamad Medical Corporation Foundation. During the workshop, attendees emphasized the critical need for comprehensive and up-to-date data that incorporates the perspectives and experiences of Qatar's youth. They also discussed strategies for aligning public sector initiatives with the project's recommendations, which focus on enhancing Qatar's national youth policies, fostering civic engagement, and formulating a general framework for volunteer work. The workshop received positive feedback from the participants, who called for the continuation of such workshops and the organization of a youth conference open to the public, where the latest research findings on youth empowerment could be shared. This study is considered one of the most significant ongoing projects undertaken by the Policy Department at SESRI, with the aim of informing evidence-based policymaking in the State of Qatar.

Participation in WAPOR Annual Conference

Dr. Ali Al Kubaisi, research assistant professor at SESRI participated in the conference by presenting a published article titled "The Efficiency of Adopting E-Government Initiatives in Qatar: The Case of e-Government Portal (HUKOOMI)". The study aimed to assess the effectiveness of e-Government initiatives in Qatar, focusing on the e-government portal known as HUKOOMI. Researchers surveyed 1,340 adults (Qataris and expats) in Qatar aged 18 to 77 years old and interviewed using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing system (CATI). The findings showed that a significant portion of both groups were aware of HUKOOMI's existence and usability. However, actual usage was relatively low. This underscores the need for awareness campaigns upon website launches. Furthermore, respondents expressed a desire for practical training and more information about the website's benefits, with many citing a lack of content as a usability issue, particularly among Qatari respondents.




E-Government Adoption in the State of Qatar

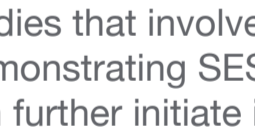
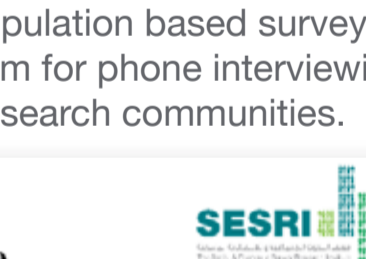
Survey of Qataris and White-collar Expatriates

Dr. Ali Selham Al-Kuabaisi
Rima Charbaji Ekassem
Noof Abdulhadi Al-Rakeb
Maitha Mohammed Al Naimi
Aisha Mohammed A Al-Hamadi

Additionally, Catalina Petcu, Research Assistant at SESRI, participated in the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) 76th Annual Conference held on 19-22 September 2023, in Salzburg, Austria. The theme of this year's conference was "Public Opinion Research in a Technology-Driven World". Catalina Petcu presented a paper entitled "The Design and Implementation of Survey Quality Control System for Qatar's First National Mental Health Survey", which has been accepted for publication in the JMIR Formative Research Journal.


Catalina Petcu showcased SESRI's success in designing a reliable survey quality control system for a complex national World Mental Health (WMH) study conducted for the first time in Qatar. SESRI's IT team, led by Anis Miladi, developed the Quality Control Indicator System to acquire high data quality through reduction in random errors and bias in data collection. The WMH Qatar study, led by Dr. Salma Khaled, was conducted in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO), Harvard University and University of Michigan.

Harmonized with WAPOR's conference theme in a technology driven world, the WAPOR presentation revealed feasible methods of quality control in studies that involve data collection of sensitive and costly population based surveys. Demonstrating SESRI's prototype of the quality control system for phone interviewing can further initiate its implementation in other international research communities.

WAPOR 76th Annual Conference

19-22 September, 2023 Salzburg, Austria



The Design and Implementation of Survey Quality Control System for Qatar's First National Mental Health Survey during Covid-19

Petcu, C., Boukhelef, I., Shamsi, H., Al Assi, M., Miladi, A., Khaled, S.

Workshops

Sampling and Weighting Workshops

Dr. Le Trung Kien from the Research Department at SESRI conducted a series of training workshops on "Sampling and Weighing" and the statistical issues related to them. The workshops provided an overview of sampling and weights, with a focus on their uses within SESRI and the stages of their development. The workshops aim to ensure that SESRI's staff stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field of sample selection in survey research. Such workshops are organized by the Institute's management as part of their commitment to the continuous development of its members and the maintenance of the quality and efficiency of survey research.



FAIR Data Workshop: An Overview of Strategies and Open Source Tools of the Trade

Mr. Brian Mandikiana – Senior Research Data Analyst present a workshop entitled "FAIR Data Workshop" focused on the following outcomes; Understanding of FAIR Data Principles, Research Data and Metadata Workflows, Best practices in Data Management using Statistical Software and Metadata Standards and long-term data preservation. The participants mostly came from the Social Sciences, Engineering, and Computer Science. The aim of the workshop is to share experiences and knowledge regarding "Hands-on" application of strategies and Open Source tools that support generating data products in-line with the FAIR data principles. In the spirit of FAIR Principles, and Open Science the materials (Slides and Exercises) are available for free upon request. Email Brian W. Mandikiana: bmandikiana@qu.edu.qa

