



30th anniversary of the International Year of The Family Conference

Executive Director, Dr. Sharifa Noaman AL – Emadi’s Message

Dear Readers,

As we approach the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the upcoming global conference will explore critical topics impacting families, focusing on the Four Megatrends, shaping the future of families. These include technological advancements, demographic shifts, climate change, international migration, and urbanization. The event will examine their effects on family dynamics and propose practical solutions.



In addition to these discussions, the conference will engage participants through interactive initiatives. The Youth Summit will empower future society leaders by fostering innovation and intergenerational knowledge exchange. Young participants will share ideas for shaping the future of families through roundtables and interactive discussions. A vibrant community space will offer workshops, technological showcases, and networking opportunities for over 2,000 delegates, enabling them to connect with global experts and collaborate on strategies. The Family Playground will provide educational and fun activities for children and families, reinforcing the event’s commitment to family engagement.

The conference will host over 20 interactive sessions, bringing together experts, academics, and policymakers to share insights and collaborate on global family empowerment initiatives. Key topics include the impact of technology on family life, particularly its influence on children. Sessions will address the risks of digital addiction, cyberbullying, and the effects of screen time on family interactions, while exploring the role of assistive technologies in education and elderly care.

Demographic changes, such as population decline and aging societies, will also be discussed, with sessions focusing on economic and social challenges and fertility-boosting policies. Additional sessions will explore evolving family structures, cultural stereotypes, and policies to improve work-family balance.

Migration and conflict will be another major theme, with discussions on protecting families affected by war, facilitating reunification, and addressing migration-related demographic shifts. The unique challenges migrant families face, including economic barriers and social integration, will also be examined, along with the legal frameworks needed to support family unity.

The conference will further address the impact of urbanization and climate change on families, focusing on family-friendly urban design and nature-based solutions for challenges like climate-induced migration, food insecurity, and eco-anxiety. Strategies and policies to mitigate these issues will be highlighted.

Another key topic is the relationship between family dynamics and poverty. Sessions will explore how family structures can either perpetuate or prevent the intergenerational transmission of poverty, with a focus on child marriage and family-based social protection. Programs like the Tanshi'a initiative, which focuses on adolescent well-being and preventive approaches to family health, will also be featured.

With a diverse array of sessions tackling these critical issues, the conference will foster collaboration and offer actionable insights to support families in a rapidly changing world.

We eagerly anticipate your participation in this dynamic international event.

Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al-Emadi
Executive Director
Doha International Family Institute

Related Studies

Adolescent Overuse of Digital Technology

This report, produced in partnership with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), and the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), summarizes the views of parents, adolescents, and experts in Qatar on the younger generation’s overuse of digital technologies, as well as strategies for parents and children to deal with this dilemma, based on qualitative and quantitative data collected and analyzed by the research team.

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Parental Perspectives on Adolescents’ Excessive Use of Technology in Qatar: Challenges and Coping Strategies

This research paper explores the challenges and coping strategies associated with technology overuse among adolescents in Qatar from the perspective of parents. It presents qualitative findings from a 2021-2022 study on technology overuse by adolescents in Qatar. The study found that technology overuse among adolescents in Qatar is a major concern for families, leading to negative consequences such as isolation, poor school performance, health problems, and social disintegration.

This paper provides valuable insights into the challenges, negative impacts, and coping strategies that parents can use to promote health among the younger generation.

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International news and studies

The Impact of Technology on Parent-Child Interaction in The Family

This study explores the impact of technology on the dynamics of parent-child interaction in the family sphere. The results of this study highlight that the use of technology significantly impacts parent-child interaction in the family and that the use of technology, in an unstructured manner, tends to reduce the time parents and children should spend together. However, it must be recognized that technology also has the potential to be a valuable tool, especially when used wisely and as a positive educational resource.

Therefore, effective management of technology use in the family environment plays a crucial role in maintaining this balance.

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Climate Change and Environment: A Livable Planet for Every Child

A scientific article by UNICEF focuses on how extreme climate events threaten children’s lives and develop vital infrastructure for their well-being, offering solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Regional Studies

The Impact of Technology on The Structural Change of The Contemporary Family

This paper conducted by Beirut Arab University (BAU) addresses the various changes that the family has undergone, in addition to the effects of technology, globalization, and means of communication on the marriage system and bilateral relations between the genders, and the relationship between the family and children, in an attempt to identify the reasons for the emergence of atypical families, their types and their effects on the individual and society in the developed world between modernity and post-modernity.

Concerning the marriage system: the average age of marriage has increased with an increase in the possibility of divorce, and the number of those who live outside the umbrella of marriage has increased. Concerning the family and children, the number of children for each woman has decreased, and their choice not to have children has increased.

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Local news and studies

Director of Family Policies at DIFI Dr. Khalid Al-Naama: Immersion in the virtual world weakens family relations

Parents’ preoccupation with screens pushes children to look for alternatives, through the Internet, and they become immersed in the virtual world. This weakens family ties and makes children vulnerable to many challenges, including bullying and cyber-extortion.

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DIFI News:

MOHE and DIFI organize the first meeting of the Tanshi'a Program for the Academic year 2024-2025

Dr. Khalid Al-Nama participated in the 22nd Annual Sustainability Conference, where he led a session on "Engaging Youth to Accelerate the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda," reflecting the institute's commitment to active participation in global sustainability efforts

The program aims to enhance sustainable factors and neutralize risk factors among students, to limit negative behaviors.

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Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi, highlighted that parents use electronic devices excessively, with an average of about 8-10 hours per day. Additionally, 29.64% of adolescent respondents reported prefer spending their time on the Internet rather than with others (including family members).

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Under The Patronage of Her Excellency the Minister of Social Development and Family, The Doha International Family Institute Organizes The Fourth Gulf Family Policy Forum

The forum, held in partnership with the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council States, under the title of "Sustainability of the Family Institution in the GCC", focused on the effects of marital separation on children and researched the concepts related to positive separation. The forum also reviewed successful experiences of marital counseling, and the importance of enhancing its role in the stage preceding separation, while highlighting the contribution of technology and social media in improving family cohesion.



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DIFI Launches Report on First Five Years of Marriage in The Arab World

The results found multiple reasons for conflicts in the relationship between newlyweds, including unexpected behaviors, disputes over parenting styles, and differences in perceptions and attitudes between wives and husbands, with respondents highlighting factors such as openness, a belief in the importance of family, and its continuity, work-life balance, responsibility, mindful decisions and attitudes, and prospective planning. The study also presented the factors required to achieve stability in married life. Interest and good companionship came in at 72 percent, followed by mutual respect at 70 percent, bearing responsibilities (62 percent), love (51 percent), and partnership in household chores and expenses (31 percent).



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Video

Join us at the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference. Together, we explore how to use technology to build a positive future for our families.



Spotlight

DIFI invites you to shape the discussion on building new frameworks for "Family and Contemporary Megatrends," in Doha, Qatar from October 30-31, 2024.

Register your interest [here](#)

