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Abstract

The Role of Woman in Achieving Saudi Vision 2030, Challenges and Hardships Faced by Women: An Exploratory Study

Meznah A. Alnefaie

The study addressed the role to be played by woman in achieving Saudi Vision 2030. It also sought to identify the challenges and hardships faced by women, such barriers that limit their participation in achieving Saudi Vision 2030, and it suggested approaches to face such challenges.

To achieve the study objectives, the survey approach was used for its consistency with the nature of the study that aimed to survey the opinions of Saudi women regarding their role in achieving Saudi Vision 2030. The themes, objectives and targets relevant to the role to be played by women in achieving this vision were used in developing the study questionnaire. According to the three themes of the Vision (i.e., vibrant society, thriving economy, an ambitious nation), 19 statements were drafted using Likert 4-point scale to measure the role to be played by woman in achieving the Vision. In addition, two open-ended questions were used. The first addressed the challenges facing women's participation in implementing the Vision and the second identified the suggested solutions to activate the role of woman in Vision 2030.

The findings of the present study included: most women learned about the Vision via various means including the Vision website and social networking; most of those women were highly educated; there was no statistically significant relationship between knowledge about the Vision and the other demographic variables represented by occupational status (employed/ unemployed), marital status, age, and practical experience; and the study showed that most women believed that they should have a major role to play in achieving KSA Vision.

The study concluded with a number of recommendations: circulating the innovation culture with its various aspects (i.e., literary, commercial and industrial) among Saudi women through holding relevant educational courses and programs; circulating such culture in universities, schools and the community as whole. The study emphasized the importance of circulating the sports culture among women especially Saudi woman because of its role in preserving health and disease prevention. Finally, the study recommended a culture of saving among Saudi households and the importance of allocating a portion of income for investment purposes.

Abstract

Trends of Accounting Research Published in Peer-Reviewed Journals in Saudi Arabia during 2001-2017

Dr. Maged M. Gazar

This paper aimed to study the trends of accounting research published in the Saudi peer-reviewed journals during 2001-2017. It used the analytical descriptive approach through the content analysis method that is applied on the accounting research published during the years under study. A total of 226 research papers authored by 312 researchers, published in 10 Saudi journals during the years of study, were reviewed. The research variables were divided into those related to the characteristics, authors and journals of the accounting research works.

The paper found that there has been a continuous decrease in the number of accounting papers published in the Saudi journals in recent years as of 2012. The majority of published accounting papers focused on financial accounting topics, followed by auditing and assurance. The research also found that the majority of published accounting papers used the survey method, followed by the archival method. The majority of published papers were based mainly on individual authorship compared to co-authorship. It was also found that there is a geographical diversity of the authors' academic affiliation, and that the vast majority of them belonged to Saudi universities, followed by Jordanian universities, and then Egyptian universities. It was also found that the Journal of Economics and Management ranked first in terms of the number of published accounting papers and in terms of the number of authors, followed by the Journal of Public Administration. Several recommendations were made to improve the scientific publishing of accounting research in the Saudi peer-reviewed journals.

Keywords: Accounting Research, peer-reviewed journals, content analysis, Saudi Arabia

Abstract

The Effect of Likert Scale Midpoint "Neutral" on Scale Psychometric Properties and Attitudes

Dr. Mohamed A. Ismail

The aim of this study was to identify the effect of Likert scale midpoint on the scale psychometric properties and attitudes. A questionnaire was developed consisting of the six items of Affective Commitment (AC), one component of organization commitment, and other questions. The AC items were repeated four times using four different response alternatives (4-point scale, 5-point with midpoint, 4-point scale with "Don't know" option, and 4-point scale with "No opinion" option). The study population consisted of all trainees of the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh in the first term in 2018. A sample size of 441 trainees was chosen using one-stage cluster random sampling. The number of returned valid questionnaires was 415, giving 94.1 percent response rate. The study results showed that the AC component was both valid and reliable for the four response alternatives. However, the reliability and validity were better when using 5-point scale with midpoint, and then for 4-point scale with "Don't know" option, 4-point scale with "No opinion" option, and lastly 4-point scale. Regarding the effect on attitudes, the results showed that the proportion of respondents who chose the "neutral" midpoint was greater than the percentage of respondents who chose "I do not know" and "no opinion", respectively. Moreover, the median score of 4-point scale was higher than the median score of the other response alternatives (neutral, "don't know", "no opinion"). The participants' interpretations of the midpoint varied widely with the most common responses being: "Don't know", "Neither agree nor disagree", "Unsure", "no opinion", "not applicable", and unclear. The results also showed that more than half of the trainees preferred Likert scale with midpoint. The study recommended using 4-point Likert scale with "Don't know" option.

Keywords: Likert scale; midpoint; neutral; attitudes; psychometric properties