

Small Arabian Peninsula States- Overview

Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and UAE were fielded between December 15th, 2008 and February 26th 2009. The achieved sample size was N = 1,541 of telephone interviews. The topics included women's rights, general outlook, and education. The methodology was a RDD sample of female Muslim Nationals age 18+ from urban and rural locations.

Sample and Research Design

The sample frame consists of Muslim women living in households with landline phones in Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and UAE. RDD was used to generate numbers from governorate level area codes and available exchange numbers. Respondents were selected using a "next birthday" method, and there were no respondent substitutions. Expatriates were excluded from this study.

What Women Want

When respondents were asked what they would change to make their lives happier, women in Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and UAE were most likely to say better health or better education.

- Qatar: 16% health and 23% education
- Oman: 23% health and 50% education
- Kuwait: 15% health and 23% education
- UAE: 17% health and 16% education

Protection/Promotion of Women's Rights

Opinions about whether women's rights are protected and promoted within Sharia (Islamic law) are optimistic among respondents living in countries that are signatory of the *United Nations Conventions to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*. Pluralities of women living in Oman (49%), Kuwait (40%), and UAE (40%) believe their rights are "very well protected" under the convention, while another 36% in Oman, 55% in Kuwait, and 52% in UAE believe they are at least "somewhat protected."

Democracy

A large majority of women in Qatar (80%), Kuwait (84%), and UAE (79%) say they did not vote in the last national election or referendum. However, 41% of women in Oman affirm that they did.

Business Opportunities

Women in Oman (44%) are more likely to say they would be "interested and able" to start a business if they had access to training and startup money, compared to only 15% in Qatar, 25% in Kuwait, and 16% in UAE who say the same. Interestingly, women in Oman are less likely to have higher education (47%), compared to 62% in Qatar, 60% in Kuwait, and 57% in UAE.

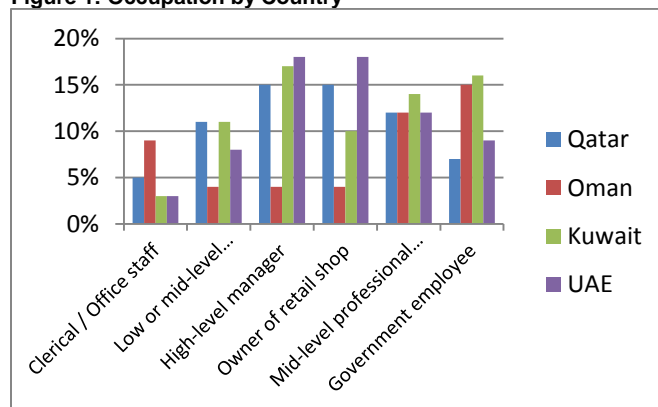
Marital Status

About three-fourths of women in Qatar (76%), Kuwait (78%), and UAE (75%) are married. However, only half of those in Oman (50%) are married.

Employment

The majority of women surveyed in Qatar (55%), Kuwait (60%), and UAE (53%) and nearly half (44%) of those in Oman are housewives who do not work outside of the house. Figure 1 shows the most common occupations among those who work.

Figure 1: Occupation by Country



For more information on how to participate or access the data please contact
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