

Unemployed Women in Rural Saudi Arabia: Gender and Social Challenges

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ABSTRACT

This research paper analyzes perceptions about the causes of the high level of unemployed qualified Saudi Arabian women in rural places, including the role of the educational system and attitudes of Saudi society. Unemployed women in rural areas were interviewed using a phenomenological approach. The nine participants have diverse places of origin, current places of residence, majors of study, and life situations. The findings indicate that unemployed women perceive the higher rate of unemployed women in rural areas to be related to: (1) rapid population growth, (2) high demand for public sector jobs, (3), and the lack of transportation options and child care facilities. Overall, findings suggest that while attitudes towards women in the workforce are changing in Saudi society, updated policies and improved support systems could help close the gap in employment between men and women.

Keywords: Gender, Unemployment, Education, Rural, Saudi Arabia.

Introduction

Given concerns about education and societal attitudes affecting rural Saudi Arabian women, a better understanding of the population changes affecting this group is necessary. The Saudi Arabian population has rapidly increased in the last 30 years. According to the General Authority of Statistics in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (K.S.A.) (GAS, 2016), the Saudi Arabian population in 1994 was approximately 16 million and has increased to 30 million as of early 2016. Of these 30 million, 72 percent.

Of this population are citizens and 28 percent are non-citizens. In addition, 51 percent were under the age of 25 in 2013 (GAS, 2013). These statistics show that the Saudi population has doubled since 1994. This growth was partially attributed to high oil prices, which tend to improve the quality of life for Saudi Arabians, particularly in education and healthcare (Oqaili, 2009). In addition, in 1932, northernmost and southernmost Saudi Arabia were 100 percent rural (Oqaili, 2009). In recent years the Saudi Arabian population has concentrated in the three metropolitan areas of Riyadh, the Eastern Region (Dammam), and the Western Region (Jeddah and Makkah), which now comprise 63 percent of the population (GAS, 2016).

Problem of the Study:

The majority of Saudi women attend university and seek to use their skills in the paid labor market upon graduation (Flynn, 2011). However, according to Al-Dehailan (2007), participation of women in the labor force is low, which is a main characteristic of the Saudi labor market over the last fifty years. Women comprised 17 percent of the labor force in 2014. More than 200,000 women are currently seeking jobs, and around 75 percent of them have a Bachelor's degree (Al-Shihri, 2013; Sullivan, 2012). Figure 1 compares the percent of unemployed females to unemployed males between 2000 and 2016. As is clear in this figure, the percentage of unemployed females is much higher than that of males.

As a result, this issue is considered one of the most important concerns facing Saudi government leaders. In response, the Saudi Arabian government has attempted to increase work opportunities for women, such as Hafiz, which is a state-run insurance program that transfers 12-month financial assistance to job seekers who are eligible for unemployment compensation and are under 59 years of age. Online workshops also are provided for people who simply need information

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and training to help them effectively search for jobs. Most people who participated in this program were female (Ministry of Labor and Social Development (MLSD), 2017). The Saudi government focused on offering more educational opportunities to women while simultaneously meeting the needs of the Saudi labor market. However, the number of unemployed females remains high.

Significance of the Study:

Because participation of women in the Saudi labor force is low, many studies have focused on this issue (Husseini, 1992; Al-Shetaiwi, 2002; Al Shahrani, 1997; Mahdi, 2008). However, these studies are relatively dated, as most were published between 1992 and 2002. Given the persistence of low employment among educated Saudi women and the dramatic changes occurring in Saudi Arabian society, this study aims to encourage researchers to conduct new research on this issue and explore why this problem still exists. Since 2002, Saudi communities have undergone many changes, which may have a significant effect on the economy, especially after the Arab Spring. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) database, Saudi Arabia spent about \$63.7 billion in 2016, which could impact the population's standard of living. Therefore, the money is spent on standard of living lower than in the past (Abdelbaki, 2013). Additionally, most of the Arab States' economy is dependent upon a public sector and lacks a significant private sector, which is critical to the economy (Adeel and Awadallah, 2013). The public sector is playing a very large role in most of oil-exporting Arab countries. Public sector wages reduce the motivations for people to look for private sector jobs or start their own businesses (Annual Meeting of Arab Ministers of Finance, 2016).

This study helps planners and policy makers understand the impacts of high levels of unemployed qualified Saudi women. Policy makers need information to improve the job market and provide job opportunities and services, especially for women, which is the goal of this paper. Therefore, further research is needed in order to suggest solutions and identify contributing factors, which is the main purpose for writing this paper.

Questions to Address:

Why does Saudi Arabia have a high level of unemployed qualified Saudi women? The following sub-questions are included:

- 1) Does the educational system play a role in this issue?
- 2) Do attitudes of Saudi society perpetuate this problem?

Literature Review:

Althmali (1990) focused on the economic adjustment of rural migrants in the rural city of Taif in the region of Makkah. He found that 65.5 percent of immigrants emigrated from their villages because they could not find jobs. Althmali (1993) found that 40 percent of immigrants improve their quality of life after immigrating to urban areas, and most work part-time or temporary jobs. Arishi (2002) focused on the rural village of Samtah. Arishi explained that 56.2 percent of immigrants have been motivated to emigrate in search of work and higher income. The outcome is that rural areas are consistently losing population as a result of urbanization and job opportunities. The migrants who move from rural to urban areas are often younger and better educated than people who stay in the same location (Muneer, 2000; Althmali, 1997). As I have mentioned, the population concentrations in three regions have contributed to uneven development across rural areas (Oqaili, 2009), especially for rural areas that are far from cities. This uneven rural development leads to many significant problems, including unemployment. Althmali (1993) found that on average, males are more likely to move from rural to urban areas than females. This situation could result from males more easily moving to urban areas, as women were not permitted to drive cars before September, 2017. Lerenard (2013) highlights that women's movement is still greatly limited. Dahh (1995) found that the income of women varied based on whether they lived in rural or urban areas. Women in urban areas have more job opportunities and are closer to business opportunities; 40 percent of women working in the private sector are in Riyadh urban areas (Ministry of Labor 2007 and AlMunajjed 2010).

Prior research has revealed that the labor-market performance of men exceeds that of women and shows how the educational system significantly impacts this issue (Husseini, 1992; Al-Shetaiwi, 2002; Al Shahrani, 1997; Mahdi 2008). Some studies have found that the lack of job opportunities for women is a result of the lack of college majors that appeal

to women (Al-Shetaiwi, 2002; Al Shahrani, 1997). Educational systems have also not sufficiently prepared women for available careers in the workforce (Husseini, 1992; Al Shahrani, 1997). Additionally, many job opportunities are available in the private sector, but most women prefer jobs in the public sector because of the higher wages. However, the government's budget cannot support the influx of highly educated women, and demand for jobs greatly exceeds supply (Husseini, 1992; Al-Shetaiwi, 2002; Al Shahrani, 1997; Mahdi, 2008).

The government has instituted the opening of different majors in public universities and colleges (The 8th Development Plan, 2005-2009). In the past 10 years, the number of universities has more than doubled, from 16 to 33, including the development of the world's largest women-only university, Princess Nora University in Riyadh (Kevin, 2012). In 2005, the Saudi government also opened the study abroad scholarship program to allow Saudi Arabians the chance to further their education overseas and bring their credentials back to Saudi Arabia. From 2012 to 2013, 44,566 Saudi students studied in the United States (Institute of International Education, 2013).

Existing research focused not only on the educational conditions affecting the high rate of unemployment for women, but also on the social constructs that have played a significant role in creating this issue (Alqahtani, 2012; Flynn, 2011; Mahdi, 2008). For instance, some traditionally conservative Saudi Arabians consider women unfit for manufacturing jobs (Sallam, 2013). Alqahtani (2012) focused on links between women's careers and the attitudes of society in one area of rural Saudi Arabia (Abha). Alqahtani (2012) found that negative societal attitudes motivated the increasing rate of unemployed qualified Saudi women. Additionally, they found that the requisite separate work locations for men and women may create difficulty for employers in hiring women.

However, in recent years, society's view of employed women has become increasingly positive. Al-Dehailan (2007) found that attitudes toward unemployed women were very similar to those of employed women in his study sample. The study suggests that unemployed women are not unemployed because of negative societal attitudes toward employment. Many men now recognize that a family can reach middle-class status more quickly if women are gainfully employed (Flynn, 2011). However, increased oil revenues may contribute to discouraging women from entering the labor market, because some women may believe entering the workforce is unnecessary if the men in their families earn a high income and can provide a comfortable standard of living (Mahdi, 2008). Increased oil revenues during the 1970s and 1980s helped to create an environment where participation in the workforce was a matter of choice, rather than a necessity (Ross, 2008)

Aside from simply being an employee, some Saudi women also strive to establish and manage their own businesses. One study found that 25 percent of businesses were owned by women in Riyadh and Jeddah in 2007 (Al-Dehailan, 2007). To summarize these statistics, women in urban areas have made some significant achievements in employment, while little change in rural areas is evident.

These studies provide a useful background for this research regarding some of the perceived reasons for the persistently high number of unemployed educated females. Most studies include some recommendations about how to change the educational system; however, none of these studies discuss rural areas specifically, so this research fills an existing gap in the literature. Studies on unemployed qualified Saudi women in rural areas are rare in sociology literature, and most of the data is not recently acquired.

Theoretical Framework

Theory:

The functionalist theory helps in understanding the situation in the K.S.A. (i.e., society is a system of interconnected parts that work together in harmony to maintain a state of balance and social equilibrium for the whole) (Durkheim, 1982; Collins, 1994). This theory references biological roles for social survival, particularly in the subordination of women, and implies how such roles might directly influence career choice. The current expression of religious beliefs in Saudi society, including the frequent workplace separation based on sex, that aim to curb the development of individuality by enforcing authority figures and confining women's roles to their traditional functions, may result from these roles. The patriarchal tendencies of this society can create obstacles for women seeking jobs.

Methods

Data and Methods:

This analysis focuses only on unemployed women from rural counties in Saudi Arabia. Towns with a population of less than 5,000 are considered to be rural areas, as defined by Ministry of Economy and Planning (2016). There are currently 39 such Counties (General Authority of Statistics (GAS), 2017). Since few statistics regarding women are available, this study uses interviews with women to gain a qualitative understanding of the problem. The interviewees were from 6 of the 39 rural areas. Educated women from rural counties are used as the standard unit of analysis.

Procedure:

I used the phenomenological approach, which is useful in exploring 'the common meaning of several individuals of their lived experiences of a concept or phenomenon' (Cresswell, 2012). The benefits of this approach include promoting thoughtful contemplation from the participants and encouraging researchers to obtain further understanding into their experiences (Lester, 1999).

The interview questions were written based on an extensive literature review, including findings from Mahdi (2008), Al-Dehailan (2007), Arishi and Al-Shetaiwi (2002), Al-Sakran, Althmali and Al Shahrani (1997), as well as the data from the GAS (2016). Open-ended interview questions were utilized in collecting information that was grouped into three categories: employment credentials, personal perception of current Saudi Arabian employment, and demographic information. Individual participants reported their personal experiences through questions such as 'Have you experienced any obstacles when seeking employment?' to encourage participants to describe their experience as an unemployed woman. Further questions are included to assess the participants' perceptions of employment opportunities, such as 'What role do you think social attitudes of Saudi society have had on this issue?'

Data Collection:

A combination of purposive and snowball sampling was utilized in choosing participants. A Facebook group for unemployed women was contacted to request participation. A message was sent to the group's Facebook inbox and the message was forwarded to all group members. Each participant was then able to contact the researcher directly. Twenty direct responses were recorded. Seven of these women were still unemployed. Only five of the respondents were from rural areas. Hence, only these five respondents were requested to perform the interviews, as they met the research criteria. One of these five respondents provided an additional two contacts that fit the criteria. Additionally, two of the interviews were face to face interviews. Prior to the interviews, the researcher emailed the participants the interview questions to provide opportunity for reflection. The interview durations ranged from 45 minutes to one hour, and most were conducted via Skype™ video. Each participant was asked for permission before the interview to audio record. Five of the participants unexpectedly refused to be recorded in the interviews and the researcher only took notes during their interviews. Non-directive follow-up probes were utilized to encourage a participant to elaborate if the question was not answered fully. This method is implemented by expanding the question using probes such as: 'Can you describe more?' This strategy may aid in acquiring more information from participants (Marvasti, 2014). Basic information about the nine women is shown in Table 1.

Name	Age	Marital Status	Current Place of Residence	Hometown	Major
Nora	33	Married	Urban	Rural	Social Work
Sara	30	Married	Urban	Rural	History
Hoda	31	Single	Rural	Rural	Social Work
Zain	26	Single	Urban	Rural	History
Njla	30	Divorced	Urban	Rural	History
Manal	28	Married	Rural	Rural	History
Abeer	31	Married	Rural	Rural	History
Zineb	33	Single	Urban	Rural	Dentistry
Reem	35	Single	Urban	Rural	Dentistry

The participants included nine women whose assigned pseudonyms are Nora, Sara, Hoda, Zain, Njla, Manal, Zineb, Reem, and Abeer. At the time of the study, all participants lived with their parents or husbands, as is customary for women in Saudi culture at the time of this study. Manal is married with three children; she completed her education in the urban city of Tabuk and then returned to her small town after finishing her education. Abeer is also married with two infants. Manal and Abeer currently live in same town. Abeer finished her education in Tabuk University, not far from their town. Both Nora and Sara are married with children; they moved to Riyadh with their families and completed their education. Hoda and Zain are single, each living with their families in Tabuk. Njla is divorced and living with her parents. Hoda, Sara, and Nora also finished their education in Riyadh, but only Hoda returned to her hometown. Zineb and Reem finished their education in Jeddah. They tried to find job in public hospitals, but they did not find. Most of them had collected financial aid from Hafiz and all the participants had majors in art or the social sciences.

Data Analysis:

During this process, comments were written in the margins to record initial thoughts bearing further analysis and key concepts were underlined and coded. The researcher used a descriptive coding method by creating phrases to describe, underscore, and summarize the interview content, such as using a descriptive coding 'family situation' for answers to the question 'How do you think your family influenced your employment situation?' In the next step, codes were divided into many categories based on similarities by utilizing computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software.

Limitations:

This study has several limitations that readers should consider. Five of the participants refused to be recorded and the researcher only took notes during their interviews. Additionally, most interviews were conducted via computer screen, which made it difficult to gauge the participant's reactions to questions, unlike in face-to-face interviews.

Findings:

Rapid Population Growth

All of the participants emphasized a lack of employment opportunities in general and the rapid population growth as contributing to the higher rate of unemployed women, which significantly increased competition in the job market. The increase of oil prices encouraged people to have larger families, leading to a marked increase in population. All of the women living in urban areas (Nora, Sara, Zain, Zineb, Reem, and Njla) since they were all unemployed. Hoda shared, 'The rapid growth in population is the greatest challenge...As we know, Saudi Arabia has had a rapid population increase as a result of health and educational development, and when you compare the job opportunities available in urban areas and in my hometown as a rural area, you can say for sure that they are not equal.'

Some participants emphasized that no difference is observable between urban and rural places with regard to job opportunities. As Nora explained, 'I moved with my family to Riyadh and I was sure that I would find a job easily. However, I have been seeking a job for about four years, but I still cannot find an appropriate job.' Similarly, Hoda shared, 'I live in my small town, but I applied for jobs everywhere, even outside of my town, such as in Riyadh and Jeddah, but I did not find a good job.' Hoda believed that the mounting number of graduates and the increasing unemployment require new laws in order to address this issue, as she added, 'The current development plans can no longer balance the influx of educated women and career opportunities. We need to develop a new plan that accommodates the increasing numbers of graduates every year. There are many educated women; however, demand for jobs greatly exceeds supply.'

Largely Foreign Labor Force

Another common theme from the participants was that the available jobs are occupied by elderly and foreign workers, as Manal explained, 'Youth are the majority, but the problem is elderly people do not to leave their jobs and give young people a chance, and that may affect the development.' Zain also shared, 'Go to any education sector, especially elementary schools, and you can see that the majority are elderly teachers.'

Five participants mentioned that the largely foreign labor force is a main factor in unemployment because they occupy most Saudi jobs, as Sara stated, 'Even though the Saudi government has tried to implement a 'Saudiization' policy, which

seeks to replace non-nationals with national labor and requires 3000 Saudi Riyal (SAR) as the minimum wage for citizens, non-Saudis still occupy many jobs because their wages are less than for Saudis.'

High Demand for Public Sector Work

Most women still prefer working in the Saudi public sector over the private sector for several reasons, including the high income, great fringe benefits, superior working conditions, abundant opportunities for promotion, and high levels of job security. Four participants had never applied to a private sector position, as Zain reflected: 'I have never applied to a private sector position because of the long hours and low job security, while public jobs provide greater job stability.' Reem shared, 'I prefer to work in the public sector over the private sector because I see working in the public sector as the most promising path to be out of unemployment as well as it is a good chance to earn a high salary.'

The participants with children argued that the cost of daycare is greater than a salary in the private sector, as Nora shared: 'I prefer to stay at home rather than to take a job in the private sector, because the salary will not be enough to cover my child's daycare expenses.' Hoda worked as a teacher, and described her experience: 'For myself, I learned many useful life skills at this job, but I could not continue because of the low salary and long hours.'

Manal also believed that employers in the private sector prefer non-citizen women over citizen women, because these employees can work more easily with customers due to gendered social expectations, as occasional interaction with unrelated men is not socially acceptable for all Saudi women. These Saudi women find it difficult to work in a mixed environment. In most public workplaces, unrelated men and women are prevented from mixing in work environments, which could increase the budget for employers due to the cost of providing separate rooms or buildings for women as Manal shared, 'Many private companies have a mixed environment in which Saudi women do not prefer to work, especially those from rural places or conservative families, so many companies prefer to offer jobs to foreign women.'

High Social Status

Most of the participants suggested that working in the public sector imparts a high social status. According to the participants, working in the public sector will afford higher social standing in their society, which is a significant factor for some of them in choosing to work or seek work in the public sector. Njla shared, 'I do not mind working in the private sector, but I prefer the public sector because of the social and financial advantages for my family and me...The public sector salary will also help to improve my image in the eyes of others in my society.' Zineb shared, 'Working in the private sector is scary and disorienting. You will get the feeling like you are going to get fired anytime. Public sectors give you the feelings of self-worth and self-esteem.'

Education and Training Characteristics

All interviewees responded similarly to the questions regarding the education system and market, and agreed on the fact that the education system and their majors was one of the main factors in their current unemployment. Mismatch between educational training and the needs of the Saudi labor market is an important problem that the society faces. Both Manal and Abeer reported that this incongruity is more evident for women as compared to men because of the limited number of jobs available for women. For example, Abeer noted, 'Most educated women in Saudi society work or prefer working in teaching more than any other kind of career...Even though this obstacle has begun to crumble in the last five years, many women still enroll in health and education sectors, which contributes to higher unemployment for women as compared to men.' Njla emphasized that 'after applying to many jobs, all of them refusing my application because my major is history.' Sara mentioned, 'Women who graduated from the arts in high school have almost reached the point of saturation in the Saudi labor market. As a result, educators have started encouraging women in high school towards the sciences.' In Saudi Arabia, the educational choices begin in high school and dictate the outcome of collegiate degrees. To illustrate, if a student enrolled in an arts degree, he or she cannot enter scientific or applied colleges (Al-Dehailan, 2007).

Transportation and Childcare Facilities

The majority the interviewees agreed that moving to a new city for a job is difficult, since at the time of the interviews women still could not drive, as Zain shared, 'Before I applied to any job, I always noted the distance between my home and the workplace.' However, Nora who currently lives in an urban area reflected, 'Distance and transportation are not

obstacles for me, as many shuttles are available, but some women travelling long distances may face difficulty. For some of my friends from a conservative family, it is out of the question.'

However, transportation can be the main obstacle for some women, especially those who live in rural areas with no suitable transportation options. When the researcher asked the participants with an employment history (Nora and Njla) about what transportation they used for previous jobs, as Njla shared, 'My father could not drop me off at work every day, so I rented a driver and a bus with some other teachers, which was much better initially. Then I heard news every day about accidents with sleepy drivers that killed many teachers who worked out of town, so I went to work in a state of fear until I finally quit.'

The participants with children also indicated that providing childcare facilities is a very important factor in encouraging employment, as Manal shared, 'No daycare center is available here in my hometown, which forced me to consider moving to cities with many daycare options so I could work more comfortably.'

Positive Change in Societal Attitudes

None of the participants reported that a higher level of unemployed women directly related to a negative view of working women. All participants stated that the negative attitude of Saudi society toward female workers has changed in recent years. The participants described more positive societal attitudes that closely resemble 'the respect position for working women' concept, as explained by Al-Dehailan (2007) and Sallam (2013). Zain shared, 'Saudi society does not look at working women in doubt as in the past.' Therefore, this reason was viewed as the smallest obstacle for Saudi women, even for women in conservative rural areas. Hoda reported, 'I am living with my parents, and they have not taken any money from me. They always said, 'We support you in finding a job that you really want.' However, the Saudi societal attitudes could contribute to female unemployment issues in some way. To illustrate, when the researcher asked the participants about family support, all participants reported that their families supported them, but modified their answer by using discourse markers such as 'however', 'but', etc. Four of the participants reported that their families rejected their request to apply for certain types of jobs for various reasons, such as distance.

Discussion:

Most of the participants in this research hold a Bachelor's degree and are currently seeking jobs, which highlights that when considering the individuals' human capital, such as educational level, place of residence, and other demographic information, the number of unemployed women remains high. These results indicate that gender may play a role in their unemployment.

Several primary explanations emerged to explain the high level of unemployed women in rural areas. First, as most participants emphasized, the relationship between the rapid Saudi population growth and the lack of occupational infrastructure concurs with extant research (Oqaili, 2009). The participants observed no difference between rural and urban educational opportunities currently, but this past issue continues to affect their generation, in agreement with an earlier study by Althmali (1993) and Al-Shetaiwi (2002). Participants preferred working in the public sector over the private sector because the private sector has more mixed gender situations and less job stability. The participants also suggested that work in the public sector imparts a higher social esteem, in agreement with previous research by Al-Shetaiwi (2002).

Most participants stated that the mismatch between education and labor market needs is one of the major factors contributing to unemployment, as previously reported by Hussein (1992), Al Shahrani (1997) and Mahdi (2008). The majority of interviewees agreed that the difficulty of moving to a new city for a job is a main factor in preventing women from working because of vehicle restrictions for women. The role of childcare provided by the workplace also reportedly could increase women's contribution to the economy in the long run, as mentioned by previous research (Al-Dehailan, 2007)

All participants expressed that negative attitudes in society about women workers has lessened over recent years. The findings of this study, therefore, do not agree with some previous studies such as Alqahtani (2012). This study does agree with a study by Al-Dehailan (2007) that reported the attitudes of Saudi society about working women are shifting

positively. However, this perception may be related to encouraging women to choose a certain type of job, such as teaching, which tends to pay less. Overall, findings suggest that while attitudes towards women in the workforce are changing in Saudi society, updated policies and improved support systems could help close the gap in employment between men and women, particularly in rural areas. Future research should also continue to examine reasons why the number of unemployed women remains persistently high. Overall, more research and new theoretical frameworks are needed to understand women's preferences about the private and public sectors. Some weaknesses in this study include a relatively small number of participants, which means that readers should be cautious about generalizing the findings of this study. The interview questions were originally written in English. However, as the native language of the study population is Arabic, the instruments were necessarily translated into Arabic to ensure descriptive, thorough responses from the participants, and some expressions may have been lost in translation. Only four Saudi rural areas were represented out of the total 39 Saudi rural areas. However, due consideration was given to the limited differences between the provinces of Saudi Arabia in terms of socio-economic or economic factors.

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Appendix:

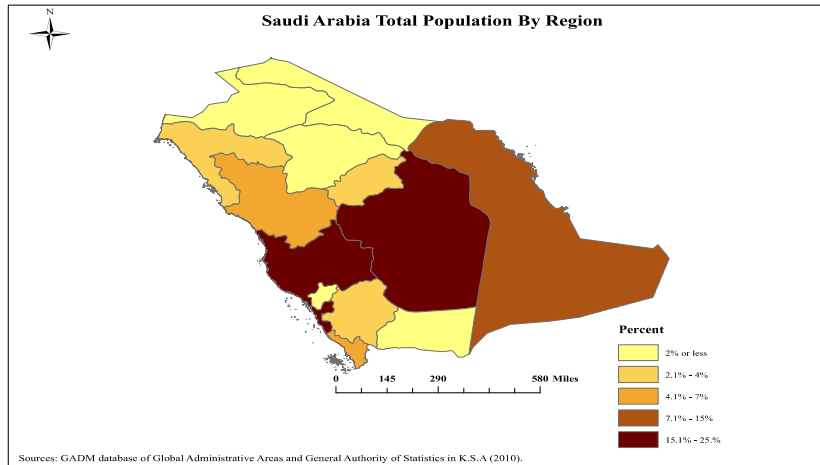


Figure 2. Percentage of population distribution based on reigns.

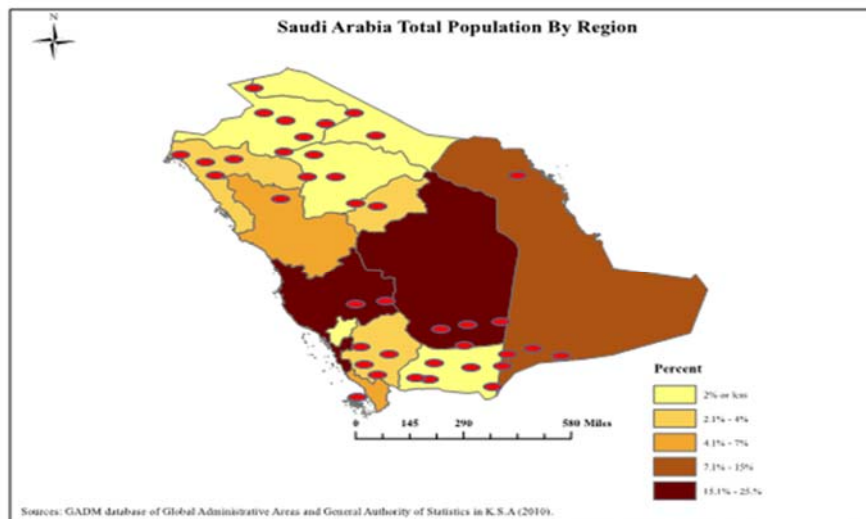


Figure 3. 39 places with 5,000 or fewer residents.

النساء العاطلات عن العمل في المناطق الريفية في المملكة العربية السعودية: النوع الاجتماعي والتنقل والتحديات الاجتماعية

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ملخص

يحل هذا البحث المفاهيم المحيطة بأسباب ارتفاع مستوى النساء السعوديات المؤهلات جامعيًا وفي الوقت ذاته عاطلات عن العمل في بعض المناطق الريفية ، بما في ذلك دور النظام التعليمي ومواقف المجتمع السعودي من عمل المرأة. وجدت الدراسات السابقة أن السبب الرئيسي هو عدم التوافق بين تخصصات تعليم المرأة واحتياجات سوق العمل في المملكة العربية السعودية ، وكذلك اتجاهات المجتمع السعودي المحافظ في بعض المناطق الريفية من عمل المرأة. في هذه الدراسة ، تمت دراسة النساء السعوديات العاطلات في المناطق الريفية. المشاركون هم سبعة من أماكن ريفية مختلفة ، وأماكن إقامة مختلفة ، وتخصصات دراسية مختلفة. تم إجراء المقابلات مع استخدام أسئلة مفتوحة مع النساء السعوديات العاطلات في المناطق الريفية من خلال سكايب. تتعلق النتائج بما يلي: (1) الخصائص الديموغرافية ، (2) الطلب المرتفع على عمل القطاع العام ، (3) مرافق النقل ورعاية الطفل ، و (5) التغييرات الإيجابية في المواقف المجتمعية.

الكلمات الدالة: النوع الاجتماعي، البطالة، التعليم، الريف.

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