

The Most Important Negative Aspects of Using Social Networking Affecting the Family Stability in Abu Dhabi- A Pilot Study

Mohamed El Khouli

Abstract—This paper strives to monitor the most important disadvantages of using families to social networking sites, in order to contribute in identifying trends for improvement behaviors of households using these sites through putting a new indicators to decision makers and implementers of development programs regarding to the family and population in the UAE depending on the pilot study by selecting a random sample of (127) family that used these sites. The analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to measure the level of relative differences between the answers of respondents regarding how they recognize the negatives of use to the social networks according to each of educational level, gender and time-utilization daily. It was a significant difference in realization the negatives aspects of these sites according to only the educational level of users

As, the results of factor analysis method showed that the most important key aspects that have the greatest impact on the perception of families to negatives aspects during using these sites in the following: {*abuse of these sites by some teens / causing isolation of children for the real world / publishing the photos, videos, and articles that be abusive to religion, customs and traditions*}. The paper has pointed to the necessity of participation of family and community-based organizations in the monitoring of those negatives and held adequate awareness programs among families for optimal use and support family stability.

Index Terms— Abu Dhabi, social networking sites, negative aspects, the family stability.

I. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary sites of social networking on the Internet becomes have advanced capabilities technological that can provide the best opportunities and services for users to enable them to achieve all forms of communication and contact social and family. And it also save the mechanisms that help them achieving the integration and involvement in the communities electronic in different interests in ways allows them to global openness to the different cultures. Today the Arab societies also facing many of the various developments to the mechanisms of action of these sites on the internet that is spreading widely, and had an impact heavily on the stability of the family in general, and on children in particular. Especially that the groups of youth and children are the most commonly used for these sites without guidance or effective control, and this in turn reflecting the existence of challenges have negative effects on family stability [1]. And thus, increasing rates of use by family

members to social networking sites has become under interest to many researchers and development institutions for family, to study the forms and motives increased usage rates for such social relations that arise over the Internet regarding the communication and interaction with others in the virtual world in light of globalization and democracy, and trying discover the most important social impact on the family.

Despite the large number of benefits to use these sites, but the non-conscious use by family members toward the establishment of social relations in all its forms online, and in the absence of effective policies for monitoring and control of these sites may pose a serious risk to the family stability, in addition to the many problems social that may arise, especially between spouses or between children and parents, which reflected negatively disintegration of the family. As well as, the interest of scientists from different fields focusing on the study of social networking sites in order to determine significance for practices, culture and nature of the users for these networks by the different methodological techniques, and theoretical traditions, and analytical approaches [2]. So, the primary purpose of the preparation of this paper is as a try to provide scientific framework highlights to what constitutes the use of social networking sites on the internet of a negative impact on family stability until it can support the plans and strategies targeted to the areas of family development, and maintain social stability in light of increasing rates of bad use for those sites by families. Especially, in light of the lack of longitudinal or experimental studies contribute to understand the motivations of users to these sites, and the purpose of use, and determine the most important negatives for this use. The interpretation of such questions requires many quantitative and qualitative studies on a larger scale. As a result of the foregoing, the problem of study has been emerged through the urgent need for an in-depth statistical analysis to determine the basic features of factors affecting on the family stability by recognizing the negatives of using social networks.

II. THE OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

A. The Main Objective

Contribute to achieving optimum use of social networking sites on the internet in order to support the family stability by identifying new indicators to planners and officials of the Family Development about the main disadvantages and negatives of using these sites, in order to activate policies follow-up and control to bad behaviors in collaboration with head of household, and the preparation of the necessary

Manuscript received October 5, 2012; revised November 10, 2012.

Mohamed Elkhoulis with the Sadat Academy for Management Science, Cairo, Egypt (e-mail: mohkholy5@hotmail.com).

programs to raise awareness and guidance regarding the use optimum.

B. Sub-Objectives

- 1) Determine the relative differences in the degree of perception negatives of using social networking among respondents according to the gender, educational level and the length of the period of use.
- 2) Identify the most important aspects of the main disadvantages and negatives of using social networking sites affecting the users of these sites.

III. METHODOLOGY

This research is based on the descriptive and analytical approach. It based on a survey of 127 of families that use the social networks within the UAE as a pilot study through interviews using questionnaires designed to study the negatives and disadvantages of the use of social networks, especially because there is no specific statistically framework for the size of families used for these sites. The members of the survey sample were selected randomly by the frameworks of households within a residential city in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, which also selected at random. The number of families in this city amounted 1266 family according to census Abu Dhabi in 2005. And this means, that the percentage of sample of families reached 10% of the total households.

It had been taking into account by this research, conduct the interviews with families that used or have prior experience on the social networking. To obtain the quantitative indicators that help the program planners and decision-makers in the field of family development within the state in order to face these negatives through preparing awareness and guidance programs to improve the foundations of family stability.

IV. PREVIOUS STUDIES

There are some studies interested in assessing the impact of the use of social networking sites on families, especially children; such as one of studies aimed to monitor the impact of social networks on adolescents within the family through a survey of 1000 households, as confirmed that the excessive use for social networking sites cause mental disorders and aggressive tendencies, especially among adolescents [3].

As a study pointed that the social relationships on the Internet through communication with others and interact with them regarding common interests or activities in the virtual world have many risks on the Internet user such as (fraud / identity theft/ electronic harassment or stalking...etc.) [4]. It was found that the most users of social networking sites of groups from teenagers and young adults. And these groups are the most improper use to those sites in way contributes to the generation of some social and psychological effects on families [5]. In addition to a longitudinal study examined behaviors of 73 families in city of Pittsburgh at U.S. to monitor some social and psychological affecting social networks users on the Internet [6].

Furthermore, one of studies reported that the users spend

long periods each day, leads to a reduction in the rates of interaction and communication with the family and community, as well as the risk of depression and isolation [7]. The another study confirmed on the weak follow-up to the family for their children when they use social networking sites, and that 88% of users believe that there is a moral hazard as a result of use these sites [8]. As one study explained that information technology impacted heavily on the individual and collective interaction within the family and in society, and that there is a scarcity of studies on the subject of effects associated with the use of social networking sites, whether positive or negative effects [9].

In light of the review the previous studies above that addressed the issue of social networks. This paper found that most studies agreed on the existence of negative effects of these sites on family relationships and community, but these studies generally lack to quantitative studies that can show the impact of the using social networking sites on family life by highlighting the most important negatives and disadvantages use. And depending on the use of advanced statistical methods that more in-depth to help decision makers and planners on the order of priorities for the development of programs designed to educate families and children better to avoid those negatives, especially in the UAE.

V. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The following table (1) shows that the proportion of male respondents reached three times the rate of females almost, as result that most male heads of households responsible for the protection and stability of the family, the percentage of males amounted to 75%, while the percentage of females amounted to 25%. It may also focus the educational level of the sample respondents, at the highest levels in the secondary education or less, their percentage amounted to 58% i.e. a half of the sample respondents almost.

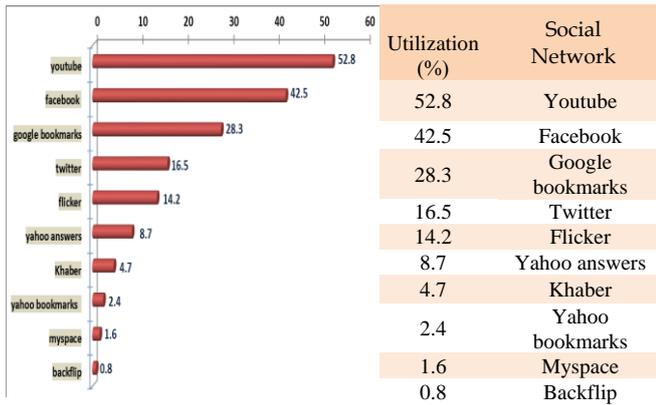
TABLE I: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE RESPONDENTS AT THE PILOT STUDY.

Demographic characteristics	Sample Size N = 127	%
<u>Gender</u>		
▪ Males	95	75
▪ Females	32	25
<u>Educational Level</u>		
▪ Secondary School or less	73	57.5
▪ University education	45	35.4
▪ High studies	9	7.1
<u>The time of utilization (per day)</u>		
▪ 1-2 hours	56	44.1
▪ 3-5 hours	46	36.2
▪ More than 5 hours	25	19.7

Also we find through the results of Table I that the highest percentage of time utilization on a daily basis to social networking sites for families was 1-2 hours, amounted to 44 % among the total sample of households, while the percentage of households that use those sites from 3- 5 hours amounted to 36% almost.

VI. THE USE OD SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

TABLE I: THE RATIOS OF USING TO SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES ON THE INTERNET



From the results of Table II shows that the proportion of households used for site (Youtube) amounted to 53% of the total sample (i.e. half the survey sample almost use this social networking site), and so Youtube site is considered one of the highest social networking sites targeted by households. Then it is followed by site (Facebook) in the importance and use by households, which amounted to 42.5%. Therefore, we find that both sites occupy high rates of use among other social networking sites, necessitating the need to work on the study of the social dimensions of these sites and their attractions, particularly with a focus on the most important positive and negative, and how deal with those negatives through the intensification of awareness programs about the optimal use.

VII. NEGATIVES OF USING SOCIAL NETWORKING

TABLE II: THE ARITHMETIC MEANS, DEVIATIONS AND PERCENTAGES TO NEGATIVES ASPECTS OF USING SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

No	Negatives of using social networking N = 127	Mean	S.D	%
1	Communicate with unidentified persons without controls	6.74	2.96	67
2	Abuse of these sites by some teens	6.57	3.23	66
3	Causing isolation of children for the real world	6.55	3.23	66
4	Lack of control the uses of children within the family	6.50	2.93	65
5	Spending times of leisure without benefit	6.06	3.22	61
6	Publish the photos, videos, and articles that be abusive to religion / customs / traditions	5.87	3.29	59
7	Participation of some persons abusive behavior and foul	5.72	2.82	57
8	Advertising for goods and services that may be bad and harmful to society	5.69	3.01	57
9	Use social networks during times of work or study	5.68	3.00	57
10	Ease of penetration of these sites without respect for privacy	5.39	2.99	54
11	Increase family problems and differences whether between sons and parents or couples	5.38	3.08	54
12	Lack of respect for the culture of others during conversations and exchange of views	5.36	2.76	54

The Table III showed that negative of "Communicate with

unidentified persons without controls", was the highest negatives resulting from the use of social networking by families, And this refers that these sites lack to the privacy policy, maintaining the confidentiality and security of circulation of information and data to users of these networks, which exposes them badly for many of the risks of theft and fraud and defamation as a result of misuse, especially among teenagers.

VIII. STUDY THE RELATIVE DIFFERENCIES IN REALIZATION THE NEGATIVES OF USING SOCIAL NETWORKS

As part of the study the most important factors and demographic characteristics of the respondents used to those sites that have had a significant effect in presence of the relative differences to perception families degree for the negatives of using social networking sites, the analysis of variance was used to determine the extent of a different degree of the importance of negative aspect depending on certain characteristics for the respondents. The results of analysis variation were shown in table (4), as follows:

TABLE IV: THE RELATIVE DIFFERENCES TO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS AFFECTING THE LEVEL OF PERCEPTION OF THE NEGATIVES ASPECTS RESULTING FROM THE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES BY FAMILIES.

Source of variation	F-test	K. Wallis -test
Gender (<i>Males / Females</i>)	0.076	0.264
Educational level (<i>Secondary School or less / University / High studies</i>)	3.787*	8.742*
The time of use: (<i>1-2 / 3-5 / more than 5 hours</i>)	0.178	0.559
Educational Level × Gender	0.247	
Gender × The time of use	0.725	
Educational Level × The time of use	2.342	
Educational Level × Gender × The time of use	1.190	

* Significant at the 0.05 level.

Table IV pointed to there are significant differences in the determining the degree of importance of the negatives of using social networking sites according to the impact of educational level of the respondents only where the values of both F-test and Kruskal Wallis-test were significant at the level less than 0.05. As, LSD test indicated that the source of the difference between respondents regarding education variable was between the individuals who have secondary school or less by hand, and who have university education and high studies on the other. While the results of F-test indicated that the interactions between variables previous did not have significant differences.

IX. MAIN COMPONENTS TO NEGATIVES AFFECTING USING SOCIAL NETWORKING

In light of interesting of this research, the most important dimensions or main components has been extracted that are influencing the interpretation of the total variance to realize families the negatives of using social networking sites using the main components method, in order to indicate the impact of the abuse of social networking sites in generate the negative dimensions affecting the family stability. Also, both K.M.O. test and Bartlett's Test were used to examine the extent of appropriate data for the factor analysis, and to verify the suitability of the variables used in this analysis [10].

The results of factor analysis using main components method as are shown in next table no. (5), which indicates that two main components only have been extracted in the interpretation of the highest percentage of total variation or difference in negatives resulting from the use of families to social networking sites, which their eigenvalues were larger than one and explains together 66% of the total variance almost to realize families the negatives of using social networking sites.

TABLE V: THE MAIN COMPONENTS DERIVED FROM FACTOR ANALYSIS TO THE KEY DIMENSIONS OF THE NEGATIVES AFFECTING FAMILIES THROUGH USING THE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES AND THEIR EIGENVALUES.

Component	Scale realization to negatives of using		
	Eigenvalue	Variation ratio	
		Explained	Cumulative
1	6.801	56.676	56.676
2	1.040	8.666	65.542
3	0.778	6.485	71.827
4	0.707	5.888	77.716
5	0.526	4.386	82.102
6	0.480	3.997	86.099
7	0.412	3.433	89.532
8	0.330	2.748	92.279
9	0.304	2.534	94.813
10	0.276	2.304	97.117
11	0.182	1.517	98.634
12	0.164	1.366	100.000

Extraction method: Principal component analysis.

TABLE VI: CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS (LOADINGS) OF NEGATIVES ASPECTS RESULTING FROM USING SOCIAL NETWORKING WITH EACH ONE OF TWO MAIN COMPONENTS EXTRACTED.

No.	Negatives of using social networking sites	Components Extracted	
		First	Second
2	Abuse of these sites by some teens	0.860	0.235
5	Causing isolation of children for the real world	0.842	0.270
3	Publish the photos, videos, and articles that be abusive to religion / customs / traditions	0.828	0.123
6	Participation of some persons abusive behavior and foul	0.793	0.146
10	Communicate with unidentified persons without controls	0.793	0.084
4	Lack of control the uses of children within the family	0.790	0.329
11	Advertising for goods and services that may be bad and harmful to society	0.750	0.405
9	Lack of respect for the culture of others during conversations and exchange of views	0.715	0.276
8	Ease of penetration of these sites without respect for privacy	0.691	0.219
12	Increase family problems and differences whether between sons and parents or couples	0.621	0.424
1	Spending times of leisure without benefit	0.478	0.686
7	Use social networks during times of work or study	0.252	0.614

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. (2 Components extracted)

The most important dimensions of negatives of use were determined that belong to the two main components as above, which have been extracted by the main components method as shown in previous Table V. This was based on the values of the correlation coefficients for these dimensions with each factor of two factors. Where whenever there have been a number of negatives more closely related to one of the

components derived whenever classified these negatives with this factor or component that is derived from the factor analysis, and these results are shown in the following table

Table VI showed that the basic dimensions of negatives, which have the following numbers respectively (2, 5, 3, 6, 10, 4, 11, 9, 8, 12) starting from the dimension most correlated with the first component to the next dimension in the value of the correlation coefficient of this component and so on. So, these negatives are classified with the first main component that has the highest importance and impact on realization families to the negatives of using social networking sites by 57%. While the dimensions that have numbers (1, 7) classify with the main second component or factor, which follows the main first factor in the impact and importance where its effect is equivalent to 9% in bring about a negative impact on the family.

The results of the factor analysis showed that the numbers of original variables (i.e. the items or aspects amounting to twelve of negatives) were summarized in two main components or factors, and their ratio of cumulative variation amounted to 66% almost of the total variance.

In general, it is better that each one of the original variables under-study (i.e. the dimensions or items regarding measuring realization level to the negatives that resulting from using the social networking sites) has a strong correlation relationship with one of the main components, which were extracted by the factor analysis. And in the same time, has a weak correlation relationship with the second main component, because this makes the two main components and its dimensions of negatives more easily for identification and interpretation, and thus can classify these negatives according to each component separately.

X. FINDINGS

The findings of the current research showed the following key outcomes:

- 1) Use 80% of the households within the survey sample of social networking sites for a period of time ranging from 1-5 hours daily rate, however, time of utilization daily for a period of time between 1-2 hours was the highest between households, which amounted to 44% of total sample, and 36% are between 3-5 hours per day.
- 2) The site (Youtube) has occupied the highest use rate target between families where 53% of households used this site (i.e. it is used by half of the survey sample almost), then come the site (Facebook) in the importance by households, which is used by 42.5% of families.
- 3) The highest relative importance to the disadvantages resulting from the use of families of social networks in the "Communicate with unidentified persons without controls", has followed in the relative importance of each of the "Abuse of these sites by some teens", and "Causing isolation of children for the real world".
- 4) There were significant differences relative to recognize the negative aspects of using social networking sites in the responses due to the difference in the educational level only among respondents.
- 5) The factor analysis extracted two main components only that can explained 66% of the total variance in

measuring of realization to negative aspects of using social networking sites. As, the first main component has the highest impact on users of those sites, which explains the highest of variance ratio, amounted to 57% of the total variance in measuring of realization families to negatives of using social networking sites. While, the second main component explained just 9% of the total variation in measuring of realization families to negatives of using these sites.

Overall, this current paper focused heavily on a statement impact use of social networking without unconsciously enough by family members to threaten the family stability. This comes as an attempt serious to highlight the dangers and disadvantages of misuse to these sites and contribute to the achievement some steps towards of optimal use. And this turn, is based on the interesting of development institutions for family and community in order to provide all requirements and awareness programs for all family members, especially the head of the family and preparing special programs for children and adolescents.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepare intensive awareness programs targeting all members of the family with the allocation of those programs according to the needs of each class whether the head of the family or mother or children (adolescents / youth) separately, as it was pointed and confirmed in some articles and studies [11]- [14].

Design a social network site under the supervision of community foundation working in the Family Development Sector. It is included many of the means of communication and new technologies to communicate with the use all the attractions and interests factors to ensure using all users within the state to this site. And this site should work on the exploitation the capabilities and energies of these young people in strengthening the pros use of the internet better.

Provide media support sufficient by shedding light on this phenomenon by media programs aimed and seminars community within media channels famous, by involving famous people who have an acceptance and credibility with family members to raise awareness of this phenomenon and its negatives on family stability during many events and celebrations and conferences organized by the state continuously, and through printing the pamphlets, brochures and means of adequate publicity ... etc regarding the advantages and disadvantages of these sites.

Use of awareness programs in schools and universities, especially the school radio and weekly lectures that focused on the teenage sons to monitor the most important pros and cons for using social networking sites; with listed to practical cases to them the damage occurred.

Coordinate with the General Authority of Awqaf and Religious Affairs for the preparation of speeches, seminars and sessions designed to educate families and children, by knowing the most important pros and cons-to-use social networking sites.

Organize a number of conferences and seminars regarding discover the best means and technological action mechanisms that contribute to overcome or control in

reducing the negative aspects of the using social networking sites by helping of programmers and specialists in information and communication technologies.

Use of volunteers from youth to address all members of the family and society in various gatherings both malls and markets or parks or gardens or recreational facilities or beaches through a campaign for raise awareness with the positive and negative aspects that resulting from using social networking sites, and it may be under the slogan (together to protect our family against negative aspects of social networks).

REFERENCES

- [1] M. M. Dakhil, Social networking concept, its inception, types, causes of spread and the positives (2009). [Online]. Available: [http://www.asbar.com/ar/ contents.aspx](http://www.asbar.com/ar/contents.aspx).
- [2] M. B. Nah and B. E. Nicole, "Social network sites: Definition, history, and scholarship," School of Information, University of California-Berkeley, 102 South Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-4600, USA, 2009.
- [3] L. Rosen, The impact of social networks on adolescents and parents. Psychology department, University of California, San Diego, California (2011). [Online]. Available: <http://asbunplugged.org/larry-rosen.htm>.
- [4] A. I. Ismail, "social relations online: Study in the potential opportunities and potential risks," *Asbar Center for Studies and Research and Information*, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 2009.
- [5] L. Tracy, "The internet companion: A beginner's guide to global networking," *Massachusetts: An Editorial Inc. Book*, 1994.
- [6] K. Robert *et al.*, "Internet paradox: A social technology that reduces social involvement and psychological well-being," *Journal of American Psychologist*. vol. 53, no. 9, pp. 1017 -1031, 1998.
- [7] A. Decca. Sad, lonely. Long off and get out. Article, new statesman. 127 (4401). pp. 13. [Online]. Available: <http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/1170619>, 1998.
- [8] A. Laban and S. F. Darwish, "risks related to electronic pornography on the Egyptian youth and control mechanisms," *the First Scientific Conference (The Family and the Media and the Challenges of the Times)*, Faculty of media, Cairo University, February 2009.
- [9] Q. H. Fahd, "the extent to which electronic technology to the needs of adolescents, seminar developments ninth Islamic thought: themed media value system between thought and experience - and the ministry of Awqaf and Islamic affairs," *Faculty of Social Sciences*, Kuwait University, 2011.
- [10] A. Y. Robert. Common correlation and reliability analysis with spss for windows. Statistics and Social Science Group. Academic Computing Facility New York University (2003). [Online]. Available: [http://www.nyu.edu/its/statistics/ Docs/ correlate. html](http://www.nyu.edu/its/statistics/Docs/correlate.html)
- [11] B. Danah. Friends, Friendsters, and My Space Top 8: Writing community into being on social network sites. *First Monday*, 11 (12). Retrieved July 21 (2007). [Online]. Available: http://www.Firstmonday.org/issues/issue11_12/boyd.
- [12] C. Haythornthwaite, "Social networks and Internet connectivity effects," *Journal of Information, Communication, and Society*, USA, vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 125-147, 2005.
- [13] G. David. Correlation. Social Science Computer Review, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University, USA (1999). [Online]. Available: <http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/garson/PA765/correl.htm>.
- [14] C. Nagele, Social Networks Research Report. Project at Wildbit(2005). [Online]. Available: <http://tidbit.wildbit.com>, Wildbit, LLC.



Mohamed El Khouli Egyptian nationality, was born in Cairo 10/07/1975, and holds a Ph.D. in Biostatistics and Demography from the University of Cairo in 2008 in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and an expert in the application of statistics and planning systems. He is an Assistant Professor in Statistics Department of the Faculty of Management, Sadat Academy for Management Sciences in Cairo, the Ministry of State for Administrative Development, Egypt and coordinator of the central unit of the quality control within Sadat Academy and have a lot of

experience in the field of statistics, Demography, strategic planning, educational quality systems requirements, training and preparation of surveys and research projects at the level of Egypt and the Arab states. He also participated in an intensive training program at the American University in Cairo regarding the research methods in guidance and Evaluation the policies by applying on the population and health fields. Concerning to his experiences, he worked as the Head of the Planning Section in Western Region Municipality in Abu Dhabi UAE, Quality and Assessment Specialist academic at the University of Qatar in the state of Qatar, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer at the Dutch Embassy in Cairo, and Auditing of Quality and Strategic Planning for institutions university at the Ministry of Higher Education in Egypt. There are some of his researches that related to United Arab Emirates such as study on "Evaluate the age & gender data for the

population of Abu Dhabi in Census 2005"; which was published in the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha Qatar, "Demographic and social characteristics of the population of Al Silaa city in Abu Dhabi"; which was published in Western Region Municipality, and "Emirati Women and the western region: Study the change in Employment and Education Indicators and its impact on the Human Development Index to the UAE during 1990-2011, which was published in Shanghai International Conference on Social Science, August 14-17, 2012 in Shanghai, China. Dr. Mohammed Al-Khouli, a member of the demographers Egyptians Association in Cairo, a member of the Egyptian Society of Statistics, and a member of the Community Development Association in Fayoum Governorate, and holds a certificates of appreciation from both the Family Development Foundation in Sharjah, and the Center of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.