

The Strengths and Challenges of Arab Families: A Qualitative Analysis

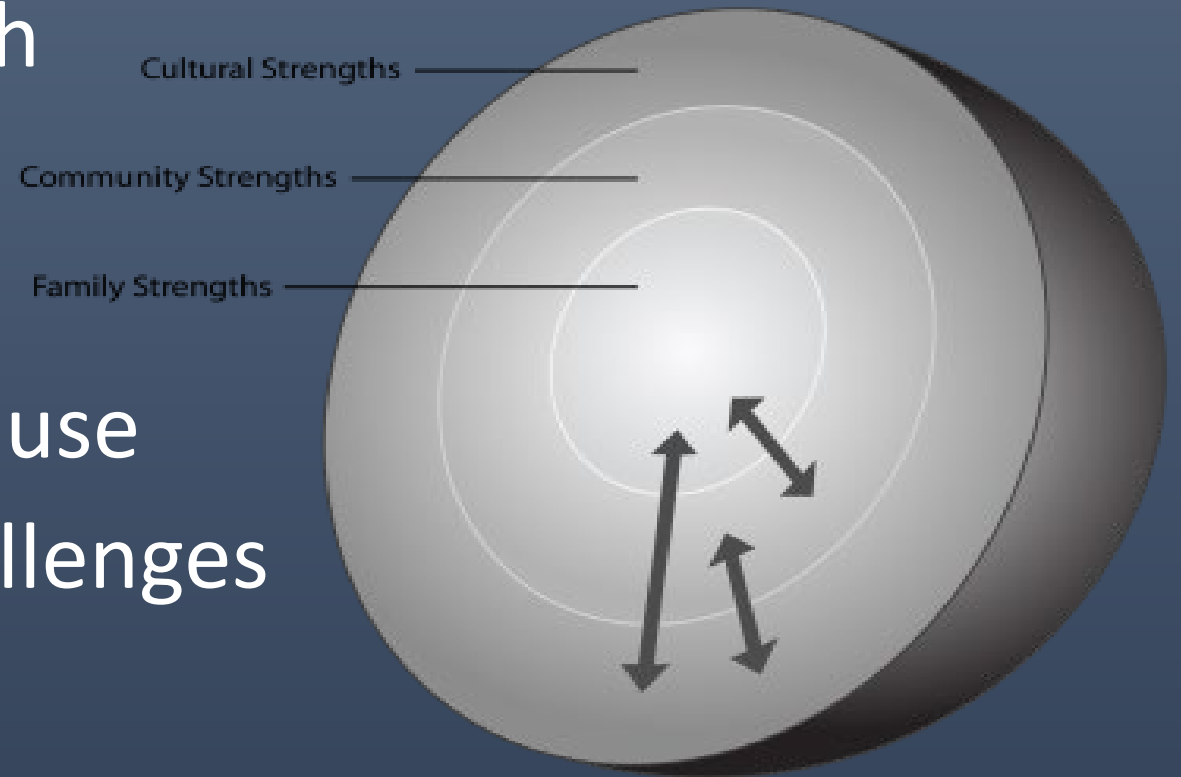
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Data Source: Doha International Family Institute, PO Box: 34080 Doha Qatar

Theoretical Framework

International Family Strengths Framework

- Positive and useful approach
- Data from 29,000 family members in 40 countries
- Demonstrates how families use strengths to meet their challenges



Purpose of the Study

- How do Arab families describe the attributes that make them strong?
- How they deal with challenges that face them on daily basis?

Methodology

- Qualitative Focus Groups were conducted in three countries using semi-structured questions
- Data was analyzed for common themes by researchers from each country and the US consultants
- Family Interviews in each country were used to validated the group themes

International Family Strengths Model	Current Study Family Strengths
Appreciation and Affection	Respect; Love
Commitment to the Family	Responsibility; Support
Positive Communication	Good Communication
Enjoyable Time Together	Responsibility; Support
Spiritual Well-Being and Shared Values	Conveying Traditions
The Ability to Manage Stress and Crisis Effectively	Resilience

Qatar	Jordan	Tunisia
Societal Changes	Financial needs and concerns	Changes in values and tradition
Inequality for women	Negative outside influences	Poor communication
Absent or disengaged fathers	Changing traditions and customs	Family conflict
Financial Problems	Illness and Loss	Financial challenges
Interference from extended family members	Absent or disengaged fathers	Negative outside influences
Conflict in the family and poor communication		

Conclusions and Future Directions

- Provides information on families in the Arab region
- Identifies changes needed within the family
- Serves as a baseline of information that can be used to provide support for families within social policy
- Paves the way for a larger quantitative study in the Arab region