The effect of Saudi women's driving on their family and entertainment roles in the Kingdom's geographical regions

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Abstract:

The decision to allow Saudi women to drive for the first time in 2018 touched various aspects of their lives. This paper aimed to assess the impact of Saudi women's ability to drive on their family and entertainment roles according to geographical region. The study was applied to (586) Saudi women who fulfil family roles and have driven a car for more than a year. The paper depended on the Family Role Performance Scale (FRPS), developed by Chen et al (2014), and on the women's entertainment roles list.

The results showed that women driving have had multiple effects - fulfilling expectations completely - on their family roles with a mean of (4.32). The family tasks most affected were, respectively; doing tasks around the house, completing household responsibilities, doing household chores, and maintaining things around the home. The family relationships most affected were; providing general support to family members, keeping family members connected with each other, providing emotional support to family members, and giving advice to family members. The results also showed that women driving have had multiple effects - fulfilling expectations completely – on their entertainment roles with a mean of (3.32). The entertainment roles most affected were; accompanying family members on family visits, taking family members to the mall or amusement parks, and travelling to other cities and tourist attractions. The results also showed there were no differences in the effects of women driving on their family roles, while there were differences to their entertainment roles, according to geographical region. This may be due to the fact that 90% of the driving licenses obtained by Saudi women were from three regions, Riyadh, Mecca and the Eastern Province which are urban regions classified as the most important regions for leisure and tourism.

Keywords: Effect, Family roles, Entertainment roles, Geographical region

1. Introduction

Discrimination and inequality between the genders has been inherent in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for many years. The Global Gender Gap Index for Saudi Arabia in 2006: (0.524), 2014: (0.6059), and 2020: (0.599), noting that the highest possible score is 1 ("equality or better for women"). However, the new era has ushered a paradigm shift that has beckoned a rising women's empowerment process (Varshney, 2019). Until June 2018, Saudi women had had to rely on their male relatives, drivers or other private means of transportation in order to travel anywhere from their homes because, as females, they were not permitted to drive (Williams et al, 2019). The historic moment came on Sunday 24th June 2018 when Saudi women were permitted to drive for the first time. In reality, a ban on women drivers has never actually existed but has been upheld by cultural and social customs which have been enforced by the traffic police and the Ministry of the Interior with support from the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (Al-Khamri, 2019).

It was expected that lifting the ban on women drivers in Saudi Arabia would greatly improve economic opportunities in the Kingdom. Allowing women to drive would open up more opportunities for them to work and reduce in number the 1.3 million foreign nationals employed as drivers, making an annual saving of $5.3 billion dollars in driver salaries and sponsorship; however, the costs of car ownership would remain (Wheeler, 2020). The decision to allow Saudi women to drive has touched various aspects of their daily life, activities,

contributions to society, and management of their time and money, and this in turn has affected the dynamics of their families. This requires the scientific research of current and future effects. So, this paper centers on the effects of Saudi women's ability to drive on their family and entertainment roles according to geographical regions.

2. **Literature review**

Due to the unique nature of the topic, there have been a limited number of social studies and research carried out in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The study of Ibn Libdeh (2017) shed light on videos published on YouTube of Saudi women driving. The results highlighted the issues raised regarding Saudi women driving; the political leadership's support for Saudi women as an active and influential social entity; having their full rights granted by Sharia, driving initially as a social issue for Saudi women, and the possibility of Saudi women failing to drive. Al-Maiser (2018) aimed to identify the effects of Saudi women driving. The results concluded that there are positive securities, economic, social and cultural effects of Saudi women driving. Al-Jundi's study (2018) also aimed to measure Saudi women's attitudes towards driving and its repercussions in the social environment. The study indicated that the timing of the decision to allow women to drive coincided with the nature of the cultural and civilizational shift experienced by society. It also highlighted the effectiveness of the decision in reducing unemployment rates, dispensing with foreign drivers, and achieving social empowerment and family stability for Saudi women. Al-Qahtani (2018) aimed to identify

the effects of allowing Saudi women to drive. The results showed that the effects of women driving a car were evident through; less time wasted waiting for a private driver, money saved when transferred abroad, improved ability for Saudi women to deal with family emergencies, Saudi women able to provide the highest level of care for their children during journeys to and from school, protection from sexual harassment from drivers, and increased responsibility for Saudi women alongside her husband. Al-Zahrani's study (2019) found that there was a relationship between women driving and being victims of crime in Saudi society, from the viewpoint of Northern Border University students. Masawi (2020) revealed the impact of social networking sites in shaping the mental image towards Saudi women driving, with Twitter being the most prominent social networking site in support of the issue, followed by WhatsApp, Snap Chat and Facebook.

The status of Saudi women is inherently linked to a traditional, conservative social structure borne out of the dominance of masculine/male culture, which developed as a result of the interaction of various cultural, social, economic and political factors .Culturally imposed meanings are deep-rooted and dominant whilst experimentally-acquired meanings are closely felt due to the long-lived patriarchal structures in Saudi Arabia. As a result, women's subordination has become an unconscious process. Women do not realize that they willingly play into the hands of patriarchal rule and powers because this patriarchy is overwhelming and embedded in every part of the societal fabric. Customary laws, based on the

ideologies of the patriarchal order, largely promote women's submissiveness. Most important is the failure to actively engage men in discussions about gender equality. The gender power model suggests that power is gendered. Specifically, relative to women, men have greater access to the use of force, greater access to resource control, less social obligations to uphold, and more advantageous cultural ideologies (UNDP, 2015; Huis et al, 2017). Gender relations vary both geographically and over time and therefore should always be investigated in specific contexts and pertain to the realities of women's lives rather than being based on a generalized assumption that women are oppressed (Mosedale, 2005; Haase, 2011; Kurtis & Adams, 2015). In fact, it has been stressed that empowerment develops through interaction between individuals and the cultural context (Narayan, 2005) and the failure to consider socio-political and cultural structures can reinforce existing power imbalances (Dutt et al, 2016).

3. Questions

3.1. *Main Question:* What effect do Saudi women driving a car have on their family and entertainment roles according to geographical region?

3.2. *Sub- Questions*:

3.2.1. What effect do Saudi women driving a car have on their family task roles according to geographical region?

3.2.2. What differences in effect do Saudi women driving a car have on their family relational roles according to geographical region?

3.2.3. What differences in effect do Saudi women driving a car have on their family entertainment roles according to geographical region?

4. Definitions
4.1. **Effect**

In this study, effect refers to the impact which, according to the United Nations (2011) is a change or range of changes in people's lives. These changes might affect old and young, individuals or communities, and include changes in knowledge, skills, behavior, health or living conditions. The impact these changes have could be positive or negative, short or long term and affect economic, socio-cultural, institutional, environmental, technological aspects of life and beyond.

Broad Considerations on Impact;

a. Impact can be considered accidental or deliberate, direct or indirect, positive or negative, long or short term,

b. Impact can be measured using numerical, quantitative methods,

c. Impact data must be analysed within context in order for it to be interpreted accurately and cause-effect relationships determined,

d. Impact may be seen as the result of multiple causes, not just the effect of a specific action, when viewed from a wider perspective.

Additionally, interpretations of impact according to various government bodies and institutions tend to agree with some small distinctions. Impact is defined by ICAI (2013) as a "positive or negative, primary or secondary long-term effect"

cause by a development intervention which was applied either directly or indirectly. DFAT ODE (2012) agrees with this definition and adds that impact is measured within the context of its environment, where it interacts with multiple factors affecting developmental change. Impact, according to USAID (2009) is the higher level result or effect of a project or program occurring over the medium to long-term. EC (2016) considers impact in terms of assessment and evaluation. It states that an impact assessment process describes all changes expected after the implementation and application of a policy or intervention, perhaps over different timescales, and impact within an evaluation context is the change associated with an intervention occurring over a longer time period. Summarily, Global Environmental Facility (2009) defines impact as "a fundamental and durable change in the condition of people and their environment brought about by a project."

Effect in this study is defined as 'positive or negative, primary or secondary, medium or long-term family role changes which are expected to occur as a direct or indirect, intended or unintended result of Saudi women driving,'

4.2. Family roles

Societal expectation often dictates the way in which individual family members behave within the family unit, with gender stereotypes playing a part in deciding how labour and family responsibility is divided between men and women (Gere & Helwig, 2012). These assumed roles often determine who takes responsibility for specific tasks, such as managing family finances, housekeeping, and family scheduling and even who typically hosts family functions (Carpenter et al., 2010). These

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days more and more women are taking on roles previously occupied by men, such as family breadwinner, increasing pressure on women as society continues to regard them as primary caregiver within the family. How women respond to this pressure depends on her family policy, cultural values and the larger social context (Galick, 2016). A study by Van Scotter & Motowidlo, (1996); and Fay & Sonnentag (2010) anticipated that these new roles would compromise overall performance of tasks and success in relationships for women.

Women's family roles in this study were defined as 'the task and relationship roles which Saudi women are expected to fulfil by in their family in parallel with driving a car.'

4.3.   Entertainment roles

Entertainment can be defined as any activity designed to delight others which can be achieved through a display of skills or fortunes (Bates & Ferri, 2010). Families with children form the largest market for the leisure and tourism industry (Carr 2006; Obrador 2012) and mothers play a key role in motivating the members of her family to enjoy time with the family at home or at venues for leisure and entertainment. Therefore, providing leisure experiences which are interactive, educational, fun and relaxing for the whole family requires careful planning and management.

Women's entertainment roles in this study were defined as 'activities which enable family members to have an enjoyable time, particularly during their free time'.

4.4.   Geographical regions

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comprises 13 emirates (provinces/regions), further divided into 118 governorates, as organized by Royal Order A/92, amended by Royal Order No. A/21 on 30 Rabi' al-Awal 1414 AH, taking into consideration the housing, geographical, security, transport, environmental and historical conditions of each region.

Geographical region in this study is defined as 'One of the thirteen administrative regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which include the highest percentage of driving licenses granted to Saudi women.'

5. Theoretical framework

This paper is based on two complementary approaches to family roles; ***McMaster Family Functioning Mode Theory*** that was proposed by Epstein in 1987. He regarded the process of the family system as the core, and assumed that the basic function of family is to provide appropriate environmental conditions for family members to develop in physical, psychological, social and other aspects. To realize the basic function, the family system must complete a series of tasks, including basic tasks, developmental tasks, and crisis tasks. This theory divides family roles into six kinds of tasks: problem solving, communication, family role, affective response, affective involvement, and behavior control (Miller et al, 2000).

The second approach is ***Skinner's Family Process Model Theory*** that emphasizes the interaction relationship between individuals in a family and the family as a whole.

Skinner regards family as a dynamic operation system. His family process model theory believes that family function is embodied by family members who carry out all kinds of daily tasks and deal with all kinds of family problems methodically and flexibly. On this basis, the theory examines family function from seven dimensions: completion of tasks, roles, communication, emotional expression, involvement, behavior and values, and rules. The completion of tasks is the core dimension, including problem identification, consideration of solutions, selection of an appropriate solution, implementation and evaluation of its effectiveness (Skinner & Steinhauer, 2000).

6. Methodology

There exist commonly used questionnaires and scales of roles and functions of the family, such as: *Family Assessment Device (FAD) Survey*, a scale which includes 60 items within seven dimensions: problem solving, communication, role function, affective responses, involvement, behavior control and overall function; *Family Environment Scale (FES)*, a scale divided into 10 dimensions: expressiveness, conflict, independence, achievement orientation, intellectual-Cultural Orientation, active-Recreational Orientation, Moral-Religious Emphasis, organization, and control; *The Family Impact Scale (FIS)* consisting of 14 items within 4 aspects: Parents and family activities, Parents' emotion, family conflict and family assets; *The Family Assessment Measure (FAM)* which includes 7 basic concepts: completion of tasks, roles, communication, emotional expression, involvement, behavior and values, and rules; *The Family Functioning Index (FFI)* consisting of 15 items designed to measure family interaction of these areas:

marital satisfaction, frequency of divergence, communication, problem solving, and happiness and intimacy; and *The Family Functioning Questionnaire (FFQ)* which examines six dimensions of family functioning: structure, emotion, communication, behavior control, value transmission and outer system (Dai & Wang, 2015).

This paper is comparative descriptive research, dependent on two tools:

A. **The *Family Role Performance Scale (FRPS)*,** developed by Chen et al (2014). FRPS contained (8) phrases (4 related to task roles and 4 related to relationship roles). Point Likert format was assigned (1 = Do not fulfill expectations at all to 5 = Fulfill expectations completely). FRPS had a promising validity and reliability (Equivalence of measures tests for family role performance variables with Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis using AMOS 20.0 showed a good fit model). FRPS validity was tested through the correlation coefficients (0.889**), and FRPS reliability was tested through Cronbach Alpha (0.940), they were statistically significant at the level of significance (0.01).

Table 1: Results of the matrix of Pearson's correlation coefficient

No.	Dimensions/Phrases	R	Sig.
Family tasks			
1	Do household chores	0.875**	0.00
2	Maintain things around the home	0.866**	0.00
3	Complete household responsibilities	0.899**	0.00
4	Do tasks around the house	0.772**	0.00
Family relationship			
1	Provide emotional support to your family members	0.924**	0.00
2	Provide general support to your family members	0.927**	0.00
3	Give advice to family members	0.940**	0.00
4	Keep family members connected with each other	0.913**	0.00

*** Statistically significant at the level of significance (α = 0.01)**

Table 2: The results of Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha for the scale dimensions

Dimensions	No. of Phrases	Alpha Value
Family tasks	4	0.944
Family relationship	4	0.944
Total degree	8	0.940

B. ***The list of women's entertainment roles*** was prepared through a number of (3) focus groups, which included (42) Saudi women in the study areas. (10) roles were retained, obtained by a consensus of 80% of Saudi women in the focus groups, as those roles were the most important entertainment roles for Saudi women according to the nature of society. List of women's entertainment roles contained (10)

phrases. Point Likert format was assigned (1 = Do not fulfill expectations at all to 5 = Fulfill expectations completely). The list of women's entertainment roles validity was tested through the correlation coefficients (0.704**), and its reliability was tested through Cronbach Alpha (0.875), they were statistically significant at the level of significance (0.01).

7. *Data Collection and Sample*

The study targeted (1413) Saudi women according to Steven K Thompson equation, who met the conditions for marriage, childbearing, work, residence in one of the specified geographical regions, and having driven a car for a period of one year or more. These conditions were set in order to achieve the hypothesis of the comprehensiveness of women's family roles. The data was actually collected from (586) Saudi women, which is the number that responded to the scale.

Table 3: Distribution of Saudi Arabia population by gender 2020

Male	Female		Total
19,739,056	14,479,113		34,218,169
Female population research regions			
Riyadh	**Makkah**	**Eastern region**	**Total**
3,514,652	3,881,597	2, 045,335	9,441,584
Source : The General Authority for Statistics (GAStat) *www.stats.gov.sa*			

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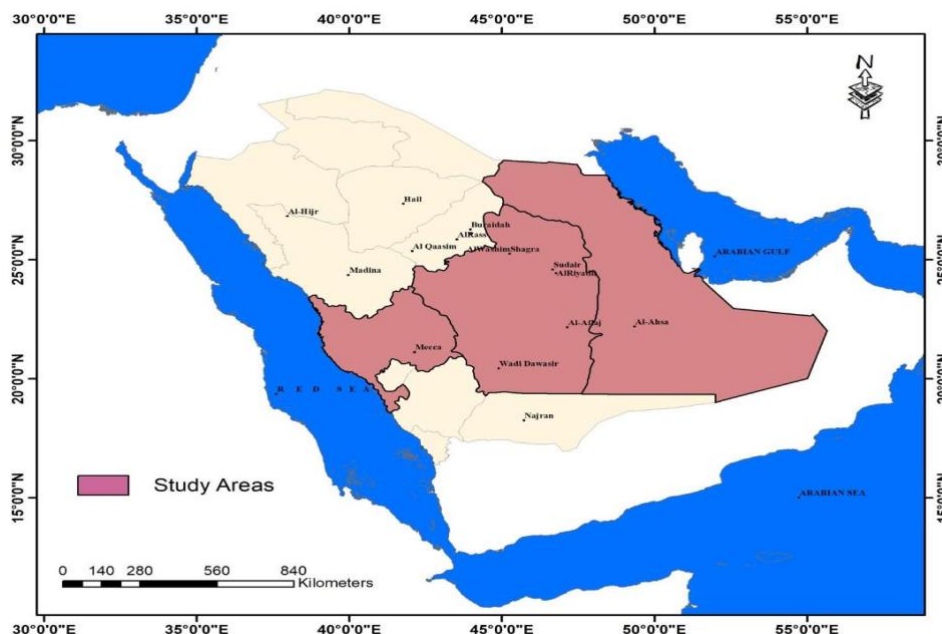
Map for main study regions

Table 4: Distribution of Saudi women driving licenses

Region	Riyadh	Makkah	Eastern region	Other regions	Total
All Driving licenses	70,596	41,292	21,312	14,800	162,808
%	47.7	27.9	14.4	10.0	100
Sample size according to Steven K Thompson equation	382	380	377	374	1413
Actual sample size	189	145	160	92	586
Source : The General Authority for Statistics (GA Stat) www.stats.gov.sa					

8. Results

8.1.   The effect that Saudi women driving a car has on their family and entertainment roles according to geographical region:

8.1.1. Women's family tasks:

Table (5) showed the effect Saudi women driving a car has on their family tasks, where doing tasks around the house ranked first with a mean of (4.57), the most important of those tasks were following children in schools, buying essentials, going to the hospital, and delivering children for sports training clubs. Completing household responsibilities ranked second with a mean of (4.38), the most important of these tasks were helping children to study, following up on children's behavior, following up on the sick condition of children, and spending time with the family. Doing household chores ranked third with a mean of (4.28), the most important of these tasks were preparing food, arranging and cleaning the house (normally performed by domestic labor along with Saudi women, or as a substitute for them in the majority of families which have undergone many changes due to cultural, economic and legal conditions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). Maintaining things around the home ranked fourth with an average of (4.01), the most important of those tasks were gardening and pet care.

Table 5: The effect that Saudi women driving a car has on their family tasks

| No	Phrases		5	4	3	2	1	Mean	S.d	Rank
1	Do household chores	n	347	128	56	36	19	4.28	1.072	3
		%	59.2	21.8	9.6	6.1	3.2			
2	Maintain things around the home	n	264	169	80	42	31	4.01	1.162	4
		%	45.1	28.8	13.7	7.2	5.3			
3	Complete household responsibilities	n	370	133	40	19	24	4.38	1.028	2
		%	63.1	22.7	6.8	3.2	4.1			
4	Do tasks around the house	n	421	123	15	11	16	4.57	0.858	1
		%	71.8	21.0	2.6	1.9	2.7			
	Mean							4.31	0.88	Fulfill expectation completely
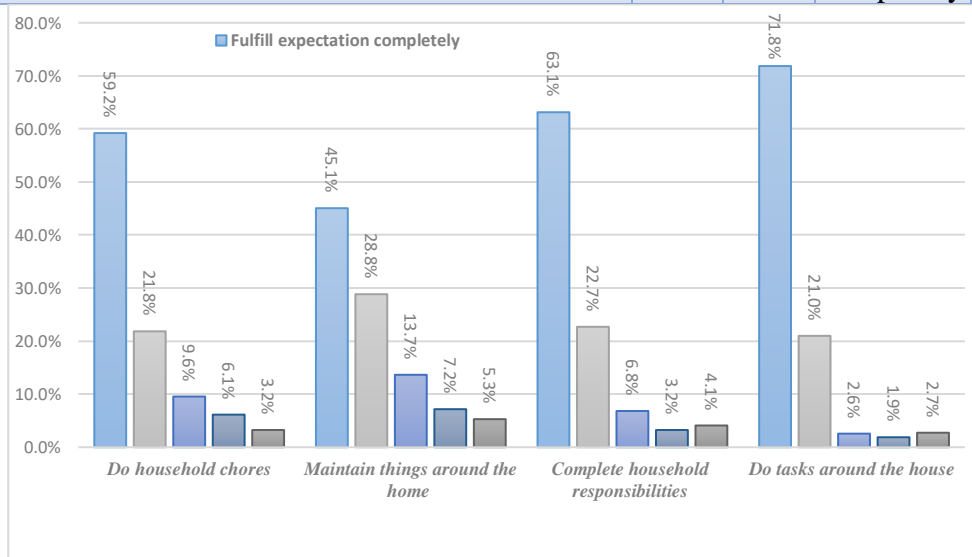
8.1.2. Women's family relationships:

Table (6) showed that Saudi women's driving has fulfilled expectations completely regarding their family relationships with a mean of (4.31). Providing general support to family

members ranked first with an average of (4.41), followed by keeping family members connected with each other ranking second with an average of (4.37), then providing emotional support to family members ranked third with an average of (4.28), and finally giving advice to family members, with an average of (4.27).

Table 6: The effect that Saudi women driving a car has on their family relationship

| No	Phrases		5	4	3	2	1	Mean	S.d	Rank
1	Provide emotional support to your family members	n	338	145	52	29	22	4.28	1.061	3
		%	57.7	24.7	8.9	4.9	3.8			
2	Provide general support to your family members	n	371	139	39	21	16	4.41	0.958	1
		%	63.3	23.7	6.7	3.6	2.7			
3	Give advice to family members	n	340	136	58	32	20	4.27	1.064	4
		%	58.0	23.2	9.9	5.5	3.4			
4	Keep family members connected with each other	n	367	131	46	22	20	4.37	1.012	2
		%	62.6	22.4	7.8	3.8	3.4			
	Mean							4.33	0.949	Fulfill expectation completely
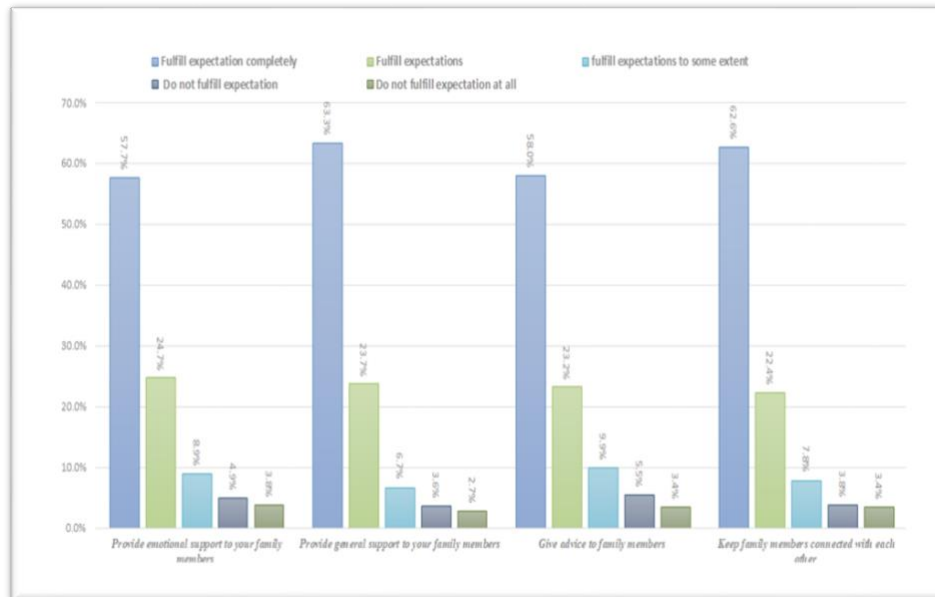
8.1.3. Women's entertainment roles:

Table (7) showed that Saudi women's driving has fulfilled expectations completely regarding their entertainment roles with a mean of (3.32). Accompanying family members for family visits ranked first with an average of (4.10), followed by taking family members to mall ranked second with an average of (4.07), then taking the kids to amusement parks ranked third with an average of (3.83), taking family members to the park ranked fourth with an average of (3.67), accompanying family members to travel to other cities ranked fifth with an average of (3.58), and accompanying family members to tourism events ranked sixth with an average of (3.57).

Table 7: The effect that Saudi women driving a car has on their entertainment roles

No	Phrases		5	4	3	2	1	Mean	S.d	Rank
1.	Taking the kids to the amusement	n	218	179	102	43	44	3.83	1.485	3
		%	37.2	30.5	17.4	7.3	7.5			
2.	Taking family members to malls	n	256	193	81	34	22	4.07	1.140	2
		%	43.7	32.9	13.8	5.8	3.8			
3.	Taking family members to the park	n	178	176	132	62	38	3.67	1.428	4
		%	30.4	30.0	22.5	10.6	6.5			
4.	Accompanying family members to tourism events	n	164	159	141	86	41	3.57	1.524	6
		%	28.0	27.1	24.1	14.7	7.0			
5.	Accompanying family members travelling to other cities	n	171	153	139	90	33	3.58	1.473	5
		%	29.2	26.1	23.7	15.4	5.6			
6.	Taking family members to the beache	n	62	44	151	149	180	2.42	1.643	9
		%	10.6	7.5	25.8	25.4	30.7			
7.	Taking family members to public libraries	n	19	35	36	205	291	1.78	1.041	10
		%	3.2	6.0	6.1	35.0	49.7			
8.	Taking family members to tourist attractions	n	168	159	133	49	77	3.50	1.779	7
		%	28.7	27.1	22.7	8.4	13.1			
9.	Accompanying family members on road trips	n	84	101	122	130	149	2.73	1.911	8
		%	14.3	17.2	20.8	22.2	25.4			
10.	Accompanying family members on family visits	n	244	209	91	31	11	4.10	0.942	1
		%	41.6	35.7	15.5	5.3	1.9			
	Mean							3.32	1.437	
								fulfill expectations to some extent		
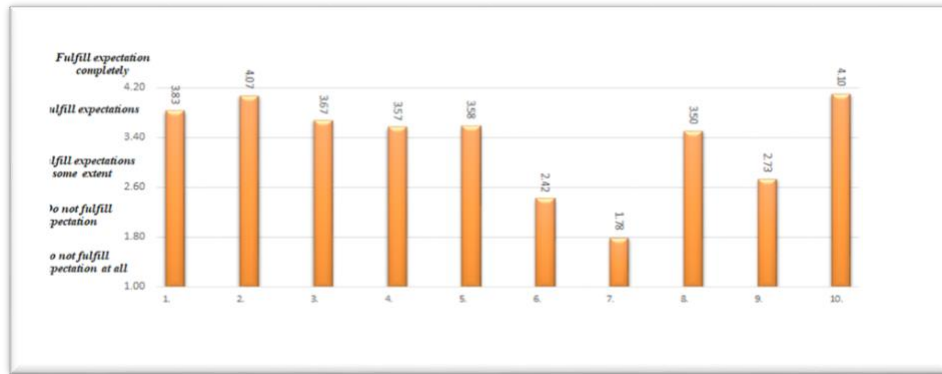
8.2. The differences in effect that Saudi women driving has on their family roles according to geographical regions

Although 90% of the driving licenses obtained by Saudi women were from three regions, namely Riyadh, Mecca and the Eastern Province, it is clear from table (8) that there are no differences in the impact of Saudi women's leadership on their family roles according to geographical regions, where the significance level was greater than 0.05 for the scale as a whole and for its axes. Table (9) and fig.(1) showed that there were statistically significant differences in the impact of Saudi women driving on their entertainment roles according to geographical region in favor of Riyadh (3.5 ± 1.475), Makkah (3.41 ± 1.13) and the Eastern region (3.45 ± 1.418) compared to other regions (2.91 ± 1.514). This may be due to the fact that 90% of the driving licenses obtained by Saudi women were from three regions, namely Riyadh, Mecca and the Eastern Province which are urban regions classified as the most important regions for leisure and tourism.

Table 8: Differences in effect that Saudi women driving has on their family roles according to geographical regions (n=586)

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		n	(Mean± SD)	P Value
Family Tasks	Riyadh	196	4.31 ± 0.76	0.677
	Makkah	132	4.24 ± 1.058	
	Eastern region	164	4.36 ± 0.879	
	Other regions	92	4.3 ± 0.876	
	Total	584	4.31 ± 0.885	
Family Relationship	Riyadh	196	4.34 ± 0.913	0.153
	Makkah	132	4.18 ± 1.124	
	Eastern region	164	4.43 ± 0.848	
	Other regions	92	4.35 ± 0.915	
	Total	584	4.33 ± 0.95	
Differences on reflection Saudi women driving on their family roles	Riyadh	196	4.32 ± 0.76	0.314
	Makkah	132	4.21 ± 1.062	
	Eastern region	164	4.4 ± 0.809	
	Other regions	92	4.33 ± 0.862	
	Total	584	4.32 ± 0.866	

*P < 0.05, ** P <0.01, ***P<0.001

Table 9: Differences on reflection Saudi women driving on their entertainment roles according to geographical regions (n=586)

	n	(Mean± SD)	P Value
Riyadh	197	3.5 ± 1.475	0.009**
Makkah	133	3.41 ± 1.13	
Eastern region	164	3.45 ± 1.418	
Other regions	92	2.91 ± 1.514	
Total	586	3.32 ± 1.437	

*P < 0.05, ** P <0.01, ***P<0.001
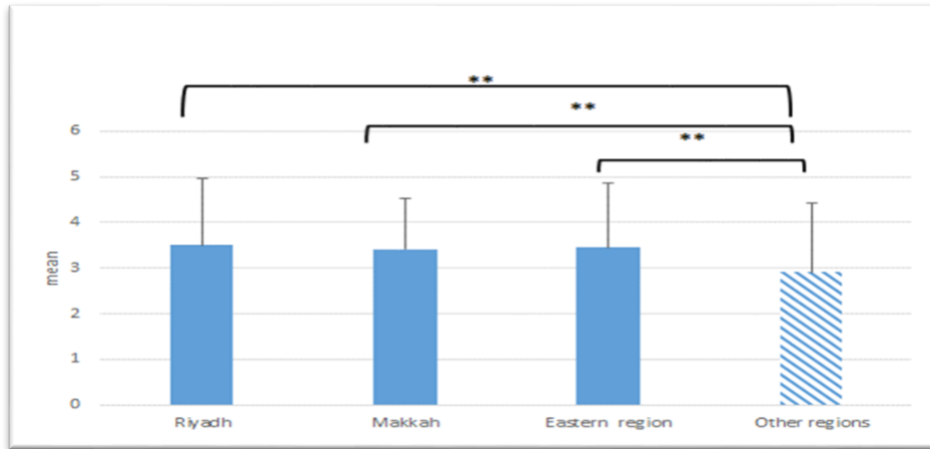
9. Discussion

Saudi women's driving has fulfilled expectations completely regarding their family tasks, with a mean of (4.31). However, there has been an increase in the number of domestic workers in Saudi Arabia of 53% in two years, reaching 3.66 million at the end of the first quarter of the year 2020, compared to 2.4 million at the end of the first quarter of 2018, an increase of about 1.26 million non-Saudi workers. Drivers constituted 53% of domestic workers in Saudi Arabia at the end of the first quarter of 2020, numbering 1.95 million drivers. "Servants and house cleaners" are the second category among domestic workers, constituting about 44 percent, (1.62 million workers), thus the two professions constituted about 97.5 percent of the total number of domestic workers in Saudi Arabia at the end of the first quarter of 2021. It seems that despite the impact Saudi women's driving has had on their family tasks, the general situation in Saudi society, with other variables - mostly cultural and economic, is still encouraging and attractive to domestic workers. The same situation exists in other Gulf countries that do not prevent women from driving. Therefore, Saudi women's driving has actually affected their

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family tasks without a corresponding impact on the general societal situation of large numbers of domestic workers, including maids and drivers. Perhaps what the world has gone through with the Corona pandemic, and the transitional period of changing the family tasks of Saudi women, and other societal patterns related to women, such as nurseries, still has not resulted in a great societal impact in a society like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where immigrants represent half of its population. Saudi Arabia has a population of (33.413.660) from Saudi and non-Saudi nationalities. The Saudi population is estimated at (20.768.727) (Male: 10.575.895, Female: 10.192.7320), females account for (49.08%) of the total Saudi population (General Authority for Statistics: Statistical Book, 2018).

The experience Saudi society has had of domestic workers should be noted. As Al-Uthaymeen (2020) indicated, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has experienced a growing role of the domestic servant or nanny as a surrogate mother due to the negative effects of the methods of socialization used in the Saudi family. This is due to the imbalance of cultural identity and behavioral and moral controls or, as Al-Enezi (2016) explained, to the occurrence of some crimes from foreign domestic workers (the situation of domestic workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a need and necessity for families, and as a trade for some groups, needs further future research).

Saudi women's driving has fulfilled expectations completely regarding their family relationships, with a mean of (4.33). Family relationships are the basis for the stability of the family environmant, and include bilateral relations between parents, between each parent and their children, and between siblings. Whereas the goal of the family as a unit is to create an environment suitable for the growth and maturity of

individuals to reach their fullest potential, and this environment is the overall characteristic of the family. Changes in Saudi women's roles have been more comprehensive, perhaps impacted by car driving, because the family is a dynamic entity, characterized by growing complexity and the organization it needs in the course of family life. Indeed, the family can no longer be described simply as a set of well-defined roles; it is negotiated on a daily basis, constructed by interactions between partners at the micro-level (Morgan 2011), and influenced by macro structures of the political and economic spheres. Work and family lives are increasingly influencing each other as both women and men engage in earning as well as caring activities. The multiple equilibrium framework addresses the evolution of the family from the male breadwinner model to the dual-earner/dual-career model with special focus on female revolution, following the transformation of gender roles on the path towards gender egalitarianism (Esping-Andersen & Billari 2015).

Saudi women's driving has fulfilled expectations completely regarding their entertainment roles, with a mean of (3.32). Entertainment is of great importance in Saudi families, given the changes that the Kingdom is going through in various aspects of life. Saudi women are concerned with recreational roles within the family, helped by the Kingdom's decision to allow Saudi women to drive for the first time in 2018. The General Entertainment Authority regulates advances in the entertainment sector in the Kingdom and provides recreational opportunities for all segments of society in all regions to enrich lives, spread joy, and stimulate the private sector to build and develop entertainment activities (http://www.gea.gov.sa/). The General Entertainment Authority seeks to create inclusive entertainment offerings that

are available across the Kingdom and accessible to people from all walks of life, providing opportunities for families and friends to experience different activities together and improving the quality of life to fulfill the goals of the Saudi Vision 2030.

Therefore, emphasis on the effects of car driving on Saudi women's family roles, in its two dimensions (tasks - relationships), and on their entertainment roles are due to the changes that Saudi society is going through in the field of women's empowerment, and women's experience of empowerment in various fields. An empowered woman believes that she can adequately confront events, situations, and/or people. Empowerment as a construct has the notion of power embedded in it. Power in this motivational sense refers to an intrinsic need for self-determination or a belief in personal self-efficacy. Under this conceptualization, power has its base within a person's motivational disposition. Any strategy or technique that strengthens this need for self-determination or self-efficacy will make a person feel more powerful. Conversely, any strategy that weakens the need for self-determination or self-efficacy will increase a person's feelings of powerlessness (Rawat, 2014).

10.   Conclusion

It seems that a Saudi woman's recognition of the effect of her ability to drive on her family and entertainment roles stems from her feelings of self-independence in this aspect of her life. This independence includes the freedom and autonomy to choose times and destinations of movement, which has greatly affected her daily lifestyle and her social relationships inside and outside the family. This undoubtedly has an impact on the family. Family represents a central social nucleus and many

countries focus, construct, and implement their economic policies around it. Here we skip structural definitions of the characteristics of family members, such as those who share a place of residence or who are related through blood ties or legal contracts, to functional definitions, that define family as any unit in which there exists sharing of resources and economic property; a caring and supportive relationship; commitment to or identification with other family members; and upbringing of children born to or raised by members of the family to adulthood.

Perhaps the most prominent aspect observed in some of the videos circulated of Saudi female drivers, is her feeling of a man's participation in the public sphere represented in the public road, something which has happened before, but in separate workplaces for both parties. Perhaps the presence of a woman next to a man on the same tracks clearly establishes empowerment as an idea for both sexes, changing the mental image of Saudi women in the minds of everyone, starting with the child/girl. Consequently, Saudi women's driving is viewed as a visual advertisement for all opportunities, procedures, policies and programs to empower women. On the other hand, it may be too early to monitor the societal effects of the decision, which may require longer periods of time and changes in the systems of social services supporting women.

Any decision that affects Saudi women and affects their family roles would support the family in its construction and functions, especially with the high divorce rates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The general divorce rate reached (2.18 per 1000 population), an increase of 10.1% over the year 2019. Therefore, the Saudi decision maker must take this into consideration in all sustainable development plans in the Kingdom; because the impact of decisions to empower women is reflected in all areas of economic, cultural, health, educational and political life.

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