

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Higher Education
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Department of Sociology & Social Work



**An Evaluation Study of the Training and
Vocational Programs provided to poor
women**

***A field study applied to Al-Nahda
Philanthropic Society in Riyadh***

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the Masters Degree in Social Work
with specialization in Social Planning & Social welfare
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Abstract

This study seeks to evaluate certain training programs that are currently being implemented in the *Non-Profit Womens' Organization* based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The training programs were established with the aim of providing women from poor and low-income backgrounds the means to help themselves and their families alleviate their financial burdens and escape their poverty.

Poor women often find themselves left burdened with the responsibility of caring for family members following the sudden absence or incapacity of the traditional male breadwinner, whether that be as a result of a husband's death or imprisonment, or due to a father's drug addiction, sickness, and so on.

The *Non-Profit Womens' Organization* has, therefore, provided such women the opportunity to learn some basic skills necessary for employment and to thus become financially independent.

As indicated above, the study attempts to categorize the type of programs provided and evaluate their suitability and success amongst the women concerned. As a result, it is expected that various recommendations to improve upon existing programs or suggest new ones will be presented.

At present, the *Non-Profit Womens' Organization* offers two types of training programs: (a) basic computer literacy, including a familiarization of Microsoft Office applications and (b), vocational training in crafts such as the pottery, woodwork, glasswork, leather ware, ceramics, and manual and automated textile manufacture.

The study demonstrates that, thus far, most of the participants are very much satisfied with the personal and professional advantages attained from the training being provided. Moreover, the trainees believe they have and are indeed are being empowered through their newly-acquired skills. In fact, in most cases, the programs' beneficiaries do not request further assistance.

As far as improving upon the afore-mentioned program and increasing its merits, the study suggests various courses of action, including:

1. further promoting this program throughout all the provinces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly in the less industrialized regions, and with greater emphasis upon the benefits they afford to women careers;

2. increasing the number of qualified specialists to deal with and work in the training centers and organizations, especially social workers, sociologists and psychologists;
3. increasing individual program performance levels;
4. visiting more poor female-dependant families to enlighten them as to the potential and expected advantages to be gained from their own program participation;
5. finally, it is recommended that the program developers and planners design and develop their programs according to the needs and goals of the poor women and with regards to what is appropriate to their academic ability.