

Seminar on Qatari Family: Strength and Challenges Doha, 16-17 January 2018

Final Recommendations

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development, in collaboration with the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, organized a seminar titled “**Qatar Family: Strength and Challenges**” on the 16th and 17th of January 2018, at the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC).

This seminar was based on qualitative study conducted by DIFI on Arab Family Strengths in Qatar, Jordan and Tunisia in collaboration with researchers from Qatar, Jordan, Tunisia and the United States of America.

The seminar, which was attended by experts, public figures and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, aimed to share and discuss the research findings about the strengths of and challenges facing the Qatari family.

Following four panel discussions on Marital Relations, Parenting, Social and Cultural Changes affecting the Qatari family and the Financial Security of the Family Unit, the participants reached the following set of recommendations to strengthen Qatari families and address the most important challenges facing them:

1. Raise awareness on marital and family issues through educational curricula and media outlets.
2. Make enrolment in pre-marital education programs mandatory and a prerequisite for authorization of the marriage and provide marital education programs to support married couples during the early years of marriage.
3. Involve young people in the planning and implementation of programs targeting them within the area of family affairs.
4. Develop legislation to regulate the establishment of family training, counseling and service centers and the licensing of their staff and expand geographical distribution of such centers to meet the increasing demand for these services.
5. Develop a national plan for the formation of qualified professionals to work in centers providing family services, counselling and training.
6. Expand the establishment of nurseries, improve their quality and consider the establishment of nurseries at work places, as well as child day-care centers.
7. Develop a national initiative for childhood, with special focus on educating the community on positive parenting practices.
8. Enhance family financial responsibility, through awareness raising and educational programs, encourage family savings, and conduct a research study on Qatari families in debt, in collaboration with relevant national organizations.