

DIFI PRIORITISES THE NEEDS OF CAREGIVERS AND THE ELDERLY

Seminar Addresses Needs of Home Caregivers to Better Serve the Elderly Community in Qatar

Doha, Qatar, 12 April, 2016: The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) recently hosted a seminar to explore the findings of a survey entitled 'Experiences of Home Caregivers for Elderly People in Qatar'.

The conference, funded by DIFI in collaboration with University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ), sought to explore the results of the qualitative survey, which gathered information from in-depth interviews with 22 caregivers in Qatar.

The seminar also focused on the stress and burdens of caregiving, coping strategies, and the benefits caregivers attain from their duties. During the event, participants also gave first-hand accounts of their experiences with the elderly, and the challenges and obstacles they regularly face.

Ms Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, Executive Director, DIFI, revealed: "In an era of increasing life expectancy facilitated by improved medical care and better quality of life, it is important for Qatar to address the needs of its elderly population and their caregivers. Very often it is family members who provide this care and they endure many burdens in their effort to look after loved ones. These challenges are exacerbated by a lack of professional care knowledge, long hours, and demanding health conditions, to name just a few."

Dr Abdallah Badahdah, Director of Family Research, DIFI, said: "This is a very important study for Qatar; it holds great significance to the elderly population in Qatar. It is vital that caregivers understand the needs of their elderly relatives and know which local authorities they can reach out to for support and who is able to assist them in their invaluable role."

Several academics took part in the meeting, including Dr Azza Abdelmoneium, Lead Researcher, DIFI, who said: "The seminar enabled us to pinpoint the major challenges caregivers face. The survey results offer an important starting point for us to improve the quality of life for both caregivers and the people they look after."

During the event, healthcare and community members strategised ways to improve daily life and local services for caregivers, which included the advocacy of voluntary community support groups, home care visits, respite services, and educational services.

DIFI is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and, through this event, demonstrated its support of QF's mission of fostering a progressive society that prioritises family and social development.

Image Captions:



Image 1: Panellists from the ‘Experiences of Home Caregivers for Elderly People in Qatar’ seminar organised by the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI).

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Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation’s Chairperson. QF’s work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar’s heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF’s initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>

For more information about DIFI, please visit: www.difi.org.qa

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About Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

DIFI is a leading international institution in Qatar that supports research, policy and outreach programs that promote the development of Arab families. With research as its core focus, DIFI supports a wide range of international, regional and local evidence-based studies relating to marriage and family structure, women, fertility and demography, child and family safety, and parenting. The Institution is comprised of three divisions; *Family Research Division*, *Family Policy Division* and *Social Outreach Division*. Its body of work includes contributions to the UN Secretary General’s campaign to end violence against women; international and regional colloquia in partnership with most UN funds and programmers, including UNDESA, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF; and the funding and development of a wide range of publications on family in the new millennium. A member of Qatar Foundation, it has a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

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