



**Sultan Qaboos University
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and sociology work**

**Report on Fact Finding study
Omani Woman Information Technology
Awareness and her Training requirements**

Field Study covering the Governorate of Muscat

**Prepared by the students of Sociology Department and
sociology work**

Sultan Qaboos University

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Introduction:

In line with the Sultanate efforts to provide social care for its citizen, the Omani woman has been recognized to receive special attention and care to activate her role and participation in development efforts on both the family level as well as the community level. That included preparing plans and drawing policies and programs that look after the Omani woman from a rehabilitation point of view , training her, and setting special centers and associations that fulfill the Omani woman's needs and requirement and allow her accordingly to participate in the development efforts in general and in particular the local development.

To complete this fact finding study a survey was done covering a random sample of female and housewives and educated women in different grades totaling to (538) and another sample of paterfamilias totaling to (260) to identify how families support the Omani woman in developing her knowledge and expertise in the field of Information Technology and her training in this field in general. The samples used for the survey were only from Muscat Governorate and its Willayat.

Objectives of the Study:

The study tried to address the following main objectives:

- 1- Identify Omani woman awareness features of Information Technology (IT) and its applications
- 2- Identify Omani family awareness features of Information Technology (IT) and its applications
- 3- Define the training requirement in the field of IT for Omani woman
- 4- Revealing major difficulties and impedimenta factors facing the Omani woman in the field of IT
- 5- Present number of suggestions that could help in the utilization of the Omani woman to IT and gain the necessary skills for computers

Outcome of the study:

First- Related to the study first objective “Identify Omani woman awareness of Information Technology (IT) and its applications” the study has concluded that:

- 1- The Omani woman has a degree of awareness for Information Technology and in particular with the usage of PC as one of the most popular technological tools. The degree of awareness varies from one area of the research to another based on the women’s education and where about they live.
- 2- Despite that the study revealed the presence of IT awareness and the usage of PCs and its importance in day to day life but also the study revealed that majority don’t have or own PCs

Second- Related to the study second objective “Identify Omani family awareness features of Information Technology (IT) and its applications” the study has concluded that:

- 1- The Majority of families have agreed on the importance of having the necessary PCs’ skills and on the usage training and how to benefit of the PCs in real world
- 2- All researchees agreed that if the Omani woman starts using the PC, this will increase her effectiveness within her family

Third- Related to the study third objective “” the study concluded that:

- 1- The assurance on the urging importance of training the Omani woman on how to use the PC
- 2- There is a great urge and desire among the Omani women to attend training courses to gain necessary PCs’ skills
- 3- There is a great need within the Omani women to learn number of real life applications skills that will allow them to socially interact in a more positive way in general and will help them to be rehabilitated in the right way to enter the job market
- 4- Majority of the women confirmed that if they use the PC after being properly trained on, that will have a positive impact on herself as well as on her family

Fourth- Related to the study fourth objective “Revealing major difficulties and impedimenta factors facing the Omani woman in the filed of IT” the study has concluded that:

- 1- Business of the Omani woman with her chore

- 2- The low level of education for majority of housewives and specially in remote areas
- 3- High cost of training courses and non availability of these courses in remote areas
- 4- Family traditions and customs related to not allowing the Omani woman to join training courses specially evening ones or far from her residence

Fifth- Related to the study objective No. 5 “Present number of suggestions that could help in the utilization of the Omani woman to IT and gain the necessary skills for computers” the study has concluded that:

- 1- The media must have a more active role in the awareness of information technology
- 2- Conduct awareness campaigns to introduce all the community members in general and women specific to information technology and the usage of computers either at work or at home
- 3- Organizing training courses related to the usage of computers in location where the women can avail of without lot of traveling and suitable timings
- 4- The production and publishing of introduction booklets explaining the importance of usage of information technology and computers and most importantly the publishing of these booklets so that the targeted audiences can benefit from.
- 5- The ease of purchasing of Personal Computers (PCs) and provide support to those who can not afford to buy in addition to reducing the charges of accessing the internet
- 6- Increasing the support to local training institutes that conduct training courses related to IT and PC usage, through variety of schemes that will cover housewives and working ladies that can not afford to pay the tuition fees of these courses and offer these courses free or subsidized
- 7- Setting either free training centers or subsidized ones to teach PC skills either in schools or clubs or at the Omani Women Association premises during summer holidays
- 8- Organizing specialized training courses to increase the Omani Women awareness and skills showing them how can they improve their quality of life and perform her social duties through the usage of PCs, in addition to open new ventures

and alleys for her to join the labor market so that she can be ready and qualified to run small self entrepreneur projects to support her family and children which will have a great positive impact on her active participation in the social development.
