



THE REALITY OF EGYPTIAN EXPATRIATES GROUPS SOCIAL NETWORKS IN THE SAUDI SOCIETY: A FIELD STUDY ON JEDDAH CITY

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ABSTRACT

This study contributes to the existing literature on social networks of expatriates groups, The study relies on a case study, in-depth interviews and collecting data that are used for multiple sampling.. This study is considered one of the few studies that, investigate social networks of expatriates groups within the Gulf communities. The primary goal of this study is to contribute its findings: no formal setting framed, including the groups lacking a future vision. This study documents of establishment of a formal organization to take advantage of opportunities and overcome challenge.

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Keywords: Social networking, Egyptian expatriates, Rising and formation, Opportunities of continuity and interactivity, The economic and social effects, Future vision.

1. INTRODUCTION

Most theorists not only study social networks but also the social aspects of such groups using networking as well as social relationships including trends and behavior (individuals, groups, institutions) and social structures. Hence, social networks have been a topic of interest within the field of sociology in recent years with an aim to understand and explain social phenomena.

As social networks, in general are of interest to researchers, expatriate networks are different because they involve personal, social and regulatory relationships among those who come from the same origin. Moreover, these networks are transcontinental in that they go beyond borders. Furthermore it involves institutions and organizations that are engaged in migration activity or assist such groups to adopt with their new place of work and living.

Concentrating on Egyptian expatriates, they can be divided into two groups: the first, those who settled down and are eager to stay outside their native country with an aim to obtain citizenship (e.g., living in the USA and Western Europe). Examples of such groups are professors

or lecturers at universities, professionals and businessmen/women. The second groups are skilled or semi-skilled workers. It is worth pointing out that the majority of them prefer living in Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates and are very interested in networking.

It is a well-known fact that sociology is concerned with explaining such phenomena and their relationship to economic, political and social changes as well as their future impact. In accordance with this, the present study is dedicated to explore the reality of Egyptian expatriate networking, including: initiation, organizational structure, continuity and challenges, economic, social and cultural impacts. In addition, this research paper aims at studying the future vision of such groups taking into consideration severe social transformations at the point of origin, including the legislations implemented by Gulf countries in general and Saudi Arabia in specific towards the Saudization of jobs and giving women a more prominent role in the workplace and other policies which aim to absorb social anger due to expatriate dominance over local jobs.

1.1. The Problem of the Study

The problem of this study can be identified in the following questions:

1. What are the nature and structure of the emergence of social networks among Egyptian expatriates?
2. What are the opportunities of continuity and interactivity between Egyptian expatriates?
3. What are the social right of expatriates groups in their native community?
4. What are the aspects of the future vision of Egyptian expatriate networks?

1.2. The Concepts of the Study

Social Networks: Maritsa (2011) defined a social network as it is made up of individuals and organizations. It is often called 'nodes', which are tied together by different sorts of relationships, such as friendship, economic exchange, influence, and common interests. An individual person can think of him or herself as a node that has ties to kinsmen, community members, schoolmates, and colleagues, as well as to larger religious, political, educational, and state institutions.

In procedure, it means the "sets of social and economic relations and similar forms of interests that are linked together in groups of individuals or families, in order to achieve the greatest possible degree of adaptation and continuity in the expatriates community with its various conditions.

The Imexpatriates : They are defined (Chalabi Abdel, 2003) as those who change their place of habitual residence from one area to another, entailing necessarily the transfer of the whole imexpatriate individual's life. In procedure, expatriates are intended as those "groups of Egyptians who migrated temporarily from Egypt to Saudi society and settled in the city of Jeddah for the purpose of work.

1.3. Theoretical Framework

- 1- **The theory of networking relations :** The basic principles of this theory can be summarized follows:
 - The relationships among the actors are usually similar in content and density, and they fill

the needs of each other considerably and in great density.

- The relations among individuals must be analyzed in the context of a larger network of relationship.
- The formation of social relationships lead to different types of premeditated and transitional relational networks. In other words, if there is a relationship between (a) and (b), and between (b) and (c), there will be potential relationship between (a) and (c) on one hand and there will be limits to its quality and density on the other. The result is that there are groups of relational networks with distinct boundaries separating groups from each other.
- The existence of these groups means that there are possible relations between the groups as well as between individuals.
- There are asymmetric relationships between elements in the same pattern resulting in the distribution of scarce resources unevenly.
- The unequal distribution of rare resources leads to cooperation as well as competition. While some groups are intertwined together to get the rare resources through cooperation, other groups are engaged in conflicts because of such resources. This lends to the theory of network relations a dynamic character. (Abdel Gawad, 2002).

The 'networks of expatriates or social networks of relatives and friends, who immigrated earlier, play an important role in facilitating and maintaining the rates stability of the migration flows.

At the outset of the 21 century, the expatriates networks in Egypt focused on the Gulf countries as well as Iraq, Jordan and Libya. The imexpatriate males, who were able to obtain work contracts abroad, were also able to secure work abroad for relatives and friends. (Zuhri, 2012)

2- The theory of social interaction: there are several basic principles of interactive theory thus can be summarized as follows:

- Individuals get into relationships for shorter or longer periods.
- Relationships are built among small or medium-sized groups.
- In the context of relationships, every individual starts to assess the other individuals positively or negatively depending on the mental image conceived during the process of interaction.
- The assessment of the individual by others groups is implemented through communication and social interaction.
- Self-assessment, positively or negatively, is always matching with the groups assessment.
- The human society is a complex structure of individuals' interactions including assessments of each other
- Positive or negative individual relationships among the groups interaction depends on positive or negative assessment of the group. (EL-Hassan Ihsan, 2010).

1.4. Previous Studies

1. Studies on the Role of Social Networks as to Expatriates Integration and Adoption:

Andersson and Hammarstedt (2012) found that ethnic networks offered many different goods and

services for expatriates in Sweden. Agnieszka and Barry (2012) argued that social contacts between groups of imexpatriates have a positive impact on the occupational status and income level among expatriates (Byungkyu and Yoosik, 2011) indicated that increasing the size of networks of relations between expatriates helps members overcome the shock. EL-Harby Nasser (2010) concluded that the level of adaptation of the Burmese community in Saudi Arabia is higher than the average and that the interaction of social networks play an important role in such adaption. The study of Demographic Center (2010), *Egyptian migration to Europe: Reality and Challenges*, concluded that most of the Egyptian expatriates to Europe do not share any social, cultural, political, or religious activities. When they are exposed to financial crises, 63% of Egyptian expatriates turn to their relatives and 26% as for assistance from friends. Khalil (1990) found that the Egyptian artisans working in Jeddah adopted well with the social adjustment. EL-Harub Taha (1986) indicated that the degree of adjustment associated with the presence of the expatriate 's accompanied family and older expatriates are the most adaptable. Mexpatriate specialization, stable profession, satisfied income, and continuous relationships with friends and neighbors supports better adjustment. Long-stayed expatriates are more encouraging to bring friends and family to Jeddah and more inclined to urge their children to stay (Ferjani and Nader, 1983) concluded that the geographical isolation is one of the main reasons non-integration and that the community's adherence to the customs of marriage, education, and the pattern of relations between family members are the most important factors of supporting social relationships and strengthening links among expatriates .

2. Studies Focused on the Relationship of Expatriates Networks with Native Countries

Hashim (2005) found out that the ties of kinship, neighbors, and friends play an important role in expatriate 's adaptation after returning from abroad. For the relationship of the expatriate and his/her homeland, the majority of expatriates remains in good relation with their native country, but the immigration puts more burden the expatriate 's spouse (husband/wife/partner. Richmond (2004) argued that the expatriate 's family plays an important role in the decision of the expatriate 's return homeland. Similarly, (Levitt, 1998) indicated how the expatriates transfer their ideas, identities and culture to the community abroad. The role of money transfer also improves the quality of life for the family and the environment in their native community. (EL-Hadi Abdo, 1997) concluded that groups of the Egyptian in the city of Riyadh maintains a strong link with their native country, as to economic, social, and cultural areas. Massoud (1992) argued that immigration policies are floundering and there is a lack in organizational vision in Egyptian labor across different eras.

3. Studies focused on Social, Cultural and Economic Impacts of Networks:

Kwok Kit *et al.* (2011) pointed out that there is a positive correlation at the levels of social participation, trust, and social identity provided that there are good social networks exists. Mariano and Douglas (2005) pointed out that parental family cohesion in Mexico helps the flow of money transfers as part of a home strategy. The study of Teaching Staff (1999) explored the impact of migration to oil-producing countries on the values of work, family,

religion, politics, economic behavior, and social criteria of the Egyptian peasants. [Abdel Muti and Abdel Basset \(1984\)](#) found out that despite some positive impacts of the Egyptian migration, represented in high money transfers and better quality of life for both the workers and their families, but the patterns of increasing consumption and the inclination of individual relationships are the most prominent negative repercussions for this migration. [Saad El-Din \(1985\)](#) explored the problems of adapting with the conditions of pre-migration as to the nature of work, salaries, and consumption patterns that are similar to individual consumption patterns in oil communities. [Ferjani and Nader \(1983\)](#) pointed out that the migration of Egyptians to Gulf countries is a mixture of grace and disgrace. It results in a better standard of living and better money transfers, but it involves rigors of weather conditions as well as emotional and social troubles because of home nostalgia and the expatriate feelings of being a resident as a second category due to various factors.

1.5. Commentary on Previous Studies

Taking into consideration of above reviews of previous studies by both Arabs and foreign authors, the following points can be highlighted:

1. Whereas most Arabic studies focused on the impacts of migration on both Egyptian and Saudi societies, the present study focuses on the social networks of Egyptian expatriates in Saudi Arabia.
2. Whereas most previous Arabic studies relied on quantitative schools as a principal methodology, the present study adopts a qualitative approach that is based on interactive process between researcher and respondent to record the aspects of the study in depth and in detail.
3. Despite the excellence of English studies that addressed the groups of social networks, such studies were in a context that is different from socio-cultural structure of Jeddah city, the focus of the study.
4. The study focuses on three various groups in terms of demographic characteristics to shed light on such characteristics on the reality of social networks of these groups and their variety.

2. THE METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

2.1. The Type and Approach of the Study

This study, however, is descriptive, thus aims to address the phenomenon of expatriate Egyptian groups by describing their current situation and related socio-economic and cultural impacts, as well as the expatriates vision of the future in such a way that helps distinguish "scientific or meaningful aspects" of their grouping data. The study relies on case study method that approaches how to coordinate and objectively analyze the information collected in detail. Then, the results are analyzed in order to reach generalizations and can be applied to other similar groups in the study population.

2.2. The Tools of Data Collection

To fathom the internal dynamics of the phenomenon under study in depth in such a way that matches the used method in a qualitative study, in-depth interviews were used based on proper communication and mutual trust with respondents, which relied on a manual of groups interviews that included a set of questions and stimuli to control the interview in such a way that helps to obtain the information that serves the goals of the study. A recording device was used in certain circumstances.

2.3. The Community and Sample of the Study

Due to unavailability of a trusted statistics and data to withdraw the study sample, multiplying sampling is used by choosing a member from individuals groups and a family from the family groups to the study as application. After being informed and acknowledged, they helped the researcher to reach the rest of the individuals or families of Egyptian expatriates in Jeddah whom were divided into three groups. The first group includes five individuals with ages ranging between 25 and 37 years old all having bachelor degrees (i.e., Faculties of Specific Education, Arts, Social Services, Physical Education), works as sales agents for manufactured leather of international brands, are young and unmarried and concentrated the in Baghdadiah Western District. The second group is a mesh networked families, who reside in the Sharqia District sharing the same building or neighborhood works in private firms or maintenance, elevator service, air conditioning, or employed by various government institutions, are living with their dependants, e.g. wives and children. The third group are those came from Qana Province, most of whom drivers, workers and craftsmen, with ages ranging from 25 to 65 years old, with low educational qualifications, some are married with children and others and other still single, concentrated in in the old houses of Bani Malik District without their families. The data were collected mid 1433H year to the end of 1434H due to difficulties to collect such information regularly, e.g. annual vacations or emergency leaves to their native country. A total of 15 interviews were implemented, 5 interviews for each group hence the timing was coordinated between the researcher and groups.

3. THE RESULTS

First: The Origin and Organizational Structure

The results of the field study revealed that expatriate Egyptian groups in Jeddah city are automatically formed in non-institutional or informal way, but governed by some demographic variables and social values, such as profession, marital status, age, educational background, place of residence in native land. The educational and professional level plays a clear role in shaping or not shaping such groups, because they belongs to no groups in the conventional sense among educational and professional senior members of the faculty at university, doctors, or senior managers and consultants.

However, there are many relationships such as social family relations among the families of two male or female colleagues in the same field and class, but they are limited and irregular relations because of work commitment and lack of adequate time for leisure. It was also found the lack of organizations, official or non-governmental organizations among Egyptian expatriates in

general, whereas there are some few informal associations limited to the low education category, which kinship or tribal affiliation plays an important role in their association.

This is what we find evidently in some slums, such as Bawady and Bin Malik Districts in Jeddah, where there are many old houses or building units that are called yards and attributed to residents of certain provinces, such as Qena yard and Sohag Yard , e.g. Qena and Sohag provinces of Egypt.

Such old houses (yards) are popular residential shelter for people of the those who came from rural areas, are new residents or temporary job seekers. Most members of such groups are workers and artisans residing without their families, though some of them are married but left their families back in Egypt.

There gatherings reflects social solidarity, participation and cooperation in terms of helping those in need for assistance, e.g. providing sustenance, housing, and small loans until they find jobs. Such attitude reflects such people's culture of higher traits of pride in origin and linkage to tribal system.

Those involved in such associations are volunteers of non-governmental and non-personal social work charity. The findings are consistent with previous studies, such as [Andersson and Hammarstedt \(2012\)](#), [Agnieszka and Barry \(2012\)](#) and [Levitt \(1998\)](#), which concluded that expatriates can transfer their ideas, identity, and culture to their destination as expatriates. Such ethnic networks have an important role in social and professional support to these groups. And [Kwok Kit et al. \(2011\)](#) pointed out that there is a positive correlation between the level of social participation, trust, and social identity and the quality of social networks.

As to the principal objectives of various groups formations, the study reflected several general objectives that can be summarized in the following points ordered by priority of groups members:

Firstly - Economic Goals: To minimize the cost of housing and accommodation by sharing financial burdens, economic support for a family member back home at times of need, or provide financial assistance to the families upon repatriation to homeland. Secondly - Social and Psychological Objectives: To ensure a sense of security and humanitarian activity in homeland, social solidarity at times of need. To exchange expertise and services for children and to satisfy needs and contribute to get jobs. Thirdly - Security Goals: Social protection if a member struggles with expired residency permit, run away from the financial burdens imposed by the employer (i.e., sponsor) or facing administrative or legal problem.

Fourthly - Communicative Goals: Assisting to connect with parents in homeland, such as parents' sending official papers, native Egyptian food, or traditional clothing to the expatriates to be carried and delivered by the newcomers or those returning from holidays. The expatriates may also send gifts and money with those returning for god or vacationers, especially among worker groups members, relatives and children of the same village or governorate, as well as letters, which became rare due to modern communication means.

As to the terms and rules governing membership and for joining different groups, there are no declared regulations or guidelines members' acceptance because of informal formation of these groups.

However, the demographic characteristics and social needs of members, and the method of travel to the expatriates community play an important role in the internal configuration of the members of the group. The groups were made up of young unmarried usually share a similarity in age, education, profession and social status, whereas the groups of families are brought together by educational and recreational interests of children among non-working wives. The groups of craftsmen are linked by strong traditional and regional relations of kinship and/or illegal travel circumstances, e.g. over-stay illegally after performing Hajj or Umrah. Such findings, however, are consistent with the assumptions of the theory of social networks, especially those linked to the nature of the relations between the actors, which are usually similar in content and density. As to the various tasks assigned to members belonging to groups, the field study found that their roles are spontaneous, informal, and non-committed to certain responsibilities.

Nevertheless, there are some factors associated with experience, with the length of stay abroad, or having some of the characteristics of social acceptance, such as enthusiasm, generosity, and conservative of customs and traditions associated with the original community. Positive relationships with other groups and assistance in hardships or in old age, and better professional situation, etc. give a comparative advantage to some members than others spontaneously. They are not subject to any kind of rules governing the nature and responsibilities of actions. However, they are subject to a positive assessment of any preferable meaning or value mentioned above according to the standards of the group, which quickly moves to the rest of such groups members or other groups in the expatriate community through any of members of the expatriate group. Such assessment may go beyond the scope of the original groups to other groups, bouncing in the end to the individual again in such a way that he is a desirable member of positive qualities that give him this social acceptance, encouraging to continue to adopt such values and attributes to see himself in the mirror of the expatriate community in such positive and leading image which is gained by groups assessment. Such reality to certain extent is consistent with principles of the social theory which is fundamental to the current study.

Secondly: The Opportunities of Continuity and Interactivity between Egyptian Expatriates

The reality of available opportunities to continue and link between Egyptian groups can be recognized by several important indicators of communication and interaction: **Firstly, the criteria for selecting residential place:** There is no doubt that the choice of housing site closer or far from the gathering points of Egyptians are an indication of the willingness to communicate and interact with each other. In this regard, the field study of three groups under study found out that communities of Egyptians are one of important reasons for choosing the location of housing. This is confirmed by all members of the third group, as they all are directed to the tribal gathering place of national community. The continuation abroad of many individuals for long periods of time exceeding twenty years within this groups is a clear evidence of compatibility level and the ability to adapt, survive and interact within these groups. In the same vein, (Khalil, 1990) found out that Egyptian artisans working in Jeddah, managed well to adjust locally.

Similarly, the members of the second group confirm that most of the wives agree that the main reason for living in such neighborhood is the desire in juxtaposition with some friends and

acquaintances of the national community.

Moreover, other expatriate say that familial relationships with friends is the main reason of residence as such friends played a principal role in the search for a nearby houses. The members of the three groups confirm that this residential juxtaposition imply great benefit to avoid homesickness, ensuring various social assistance at times of need. Perhaps the interference that the researcher observed between these families is a clear evidence of the strong relationship and consistent interaction between such groups. These findings are consistent with [EL-Harub Taha \(1986\)](#) 's findings of the degree of adjustment associated with the presence of an expatriate family thus the old expatriates are the most adaptable. The relationships with friends and family are the factors of increasing adaptability. [Ferjani and Nader \(1983\)](#) found that the community adhere to the marriage customs, education and the pattern of relations between the members of the family. In the same vein, [\(Byungkyu and Yoosik, 2011\)](#) pointed out that the increasing number of networks' relations between expatriates helps to overcome members disorders post-hardship. In addition, [\(Hashim, 2005\)](#) found that social networks play important role among each other. While the study also revealed that there are some other factors that play similar role in choosing residential location among Egyptian expatriates, such as the closeness to work. The members of the first group confirmed that the search for close housing to work is a priority. This is for two main reasons: Firstly, work hours consist of two shifts a day, e.g. morning 10:00 AM. to 1PM - 5:00 PM. to 9PM, which means that people have to return to their housing twice a day. Therefore, the closeness of housing to workplace is necessary to save time and to reduce commuting. Secondly, the nature of the transport system in the research community, which relies mainly on taxies due to lack of affordable public transport. To leave within the wages, many expatriates tend to find a nearby housing to escape taxi fare, or a number of expatriates share one taxi. As a result, strong relations between the members of such group is created as well as groups' formation not only Egyptians but with other Arab expatriates.

Senior expatriates, however, confirm such fact, e.g. the relations starts with other expatriates from the same homeland then expands to include expatriates from other Arab or non-Arab communities. The study groups members confirm that the nature of habits and traditions and other factors discrimination especially among expatriates and citizens, play an important role in forming circles of social relations. Thirdly, The study found out that the low rent for housing is the choice among Egyptian groups. This fact is reflected clearly by two things. First, the nature of the districts that serves as a point of gathering for ordinary Egyptians of expatriates, e.g. middle and lower class, such as workers' group. Secondly, the nature of the building in which they reside. It is notable that second and third groups' housings are old and simple in contents. In spite of its relative novelty of the third groups housing, the interior is economically configured and consists of one room and lounge. This is called housing for singles. Egyptian expatriates with high wages don't prefer such residential patterns and they don't prefer even have communication and social relations with the former group. The second indicator of communication and interaction is represented in the reality of social relationship and the degree of care between the groups of Egyptians: Which can be found through some social practices among groups, such as visits, telephone conversations, etc. In this regard, the field study found that the nature of the internal configuration of the groups is

reflected on the nature of social interaction. In so doing, It was found the possibility of monitoring this reality among the members of the second groups because the nature of the composition in a tangle of several families turning it as private as family visits. That is the importance of having an appointment or prior agreement before exchanging visits, ranging between 4-10 times a month. Telephone conversations are much higher up to more than twice a day in some cases. This rate reflects intense interaction and interference in social relations between such families, and the extent of reliance on phone to communicate to overcome loneliness and isolation. On the other hand, the groups of young unmarried people and workers are not subject to this fact because they are living in the same building, which replaces visits on certain appointments to be present together or share some time together during holidays and feasts. The Third Indicator is the Reality of Extending Hand at Times of Hardship: There is no doubt that sensing the importance of social support for those or among those who came from the same country at times of need are indicators of the extent of relationship that ensures continuity among individuals and groups. The field study found out that there is an outstanding support and solidarity among the three groups of expatriates in various cases of hardship. The entire members of each group individually admit that they stand by each other at times of need, including visit the ailing person, assisting in household chores, caring for children of mother who gave birth, financial and social support as of a new expatriate arrival, daily living costs for unemployed, mediating in solving problems with a given employer, collect donations in crises, and other and other acts that serves the Egyptian expatriates in Jeddah. The Fourth Indicator is the Extent of Concern as to Native Customs and Traditions: Adhering to the customs and traditions of the original society reflects the degree of correlation in such community at the public level and the extend of the relationship at the private level. This is recognized by members of the study groups who are keen to keep with all the vocabulary and national cultural elements, usage of local dialects, particularly the upper-Egypt dialect and wearing the jilbab, eating Egyptian food and attendance of religious and social celebrations of events that are not familiar to the Saudis. The wives of the second group confirm that they celebrate certain occasion, such as Easter (i.e., the feast of Spring), gathering to eat salted fish or the celebration of the Prophet's birth (peace be upon him), exchanging visits to enjoy sweets, and other practices. However, the study showed that there are some practices of many customs and traditions of Saudi society among groups members, whether they are mandatory, such as ladies wear the Abaya (a long black dress) and niqab (veil) in early age, or optional like growing the beards for men, or try to use some Saudi vocabulary to aid easy communication, especially in dealing with Saudi citizens, such as using 'totally' instead of "very", or using 'how are you' to ask about health instead of an alternative 'what's up' in Egyptian dialect, and so on.

Taking into consideration the above background, we can say that the opportunities for Egyptian expatriate groups in Saudi society are ubiquitous and reflect good adoption for living in Jeddah city, with a good opportunity to continue living and working in Saudi Arabia. However, social and economic variables impacting staying abroad are to be taken into consideration, among of which the following:

Thirdly: The Social Impacts of Expatriate Groups

The social effects of migration on the Egyptian expatriate groups are huge, including many of social and cultural aspects of life, especially the migration of Egyptians to the Gulf is generally temporary, because the expatriate leaves his family, his children, and other dependents in his country. The link between the expatriate and his relatives remains through various ways, so the Egyptian expatriate is interested in communicating with his family and is concerning for sending remittances to them, whatever is the length of his period of migration. There are many social aspects that can be affected and monitored in the following implications:

- 1- **Social Relations:** The migration has its pros and cons on social relations of expatriates in the home country. Positively, the study shows that the continuity between expatriate and his family and acquaintances reflects the strength of the social relations among them. Perhaps the care of these relations is represented in the continuation of frequent telephone calls and expatriates eagerness to follow the news of relatives and acquaintances in home country, their interest of congratulation and calling in happy occasions and holidays, their offering of condolences on sad occasions, and social support in difficult circumstances, the frequent loans to people and acquaintances in crises, and the strengthening of relationships through providing financial and material gifts during annual visits. On the other hand, relatives, neighbors, and friends increase communication with expatriate family and track their news. In doing so, many of social duties and responsibilities as well as some rules of the absent father in many required situations. On the immigration of the son in the group young people, parents continue visits and contacts through bringing gifts for his fiancée and her family. New social relations between expatriate families and members, especially expatriates from the same residential area between workers' group are also established. For the level of the because of work involvement and communication difficulty with acquaintances after migration. Some group members also reveal that migration allows other people's interventions in expatriate family life in such a way that they know many private aspects of particularly those who leave their families in their motherland. Some participants in this study argue that social relations complexity shows an additional social and economic burden on the expatriate and his family and some others believe that social relations are affected negatively after migration as a result of jealousy and envy toward the expatriate and his family due to their social and economic improvement. This drives some expatriates to reduce their social relationships in order to avoid some acquaintances and relatives belief of expatriate and his family feelings of superiority and pride. Some expatriates sometimes want to establish new social relations in accordance with their socio-economic change and residence after migration instead of old relationships, which are full of suspicion and mistrust in the behavior of the family because of fatherly non-existence.
- 2- **The Change of Expatriate Family Group Structure:** The Egyptian family structure was affected by immigration to the Gulf countries. The phenomenon of family fusion is an aspect of this structural change that emerged as a direct result of father migration. Husbands account this problem for a difficulty of family living costs in the expatriate

community, or for the desire to reduce expenditure, or for the desire of continuing children educational status, which is considered a repeated case among workers group. There is also what might be called the phenomenon of "quasi-fission" families, which is formed of leaving one or more of the children with one or both of grandparents or one of the relatives (i.e., an aunt or an uncle whose allow circumstances to such hosting) and especially to those who are in the early stages of university, with which there is a difficulty in completing undergraduate study in expatriate community, where the rest of the family reside together. Such hosting is often associated with giving gifts or financial aid to the cost of living. This situation is repeated in family groups. However, this phenomenon may form a natural and moral support separation from the fiancée as well as her family as a result of migration of the young man leaving his family and his fiancée in the original homeland. The family, then, may face obstacles in completing their son's marriage or finishing his fiancée procedures to be his wife. This case often repeats within young people group, which means that the expatriate and his family give up many psychological and family satisfaction, which results in many tensions that reflect negatively on the structure of natural integrated family.

- 3- **The Change of the Roles and Family Functions in Expatriate Groups:** There are many aspects of change in family functions of expatriate groups. Firstly: The increased role of the mother and reduced role of the father's. Following the husband's travelling abroad, the wife bears more burdens and responsibilities of raising children, solving their problems, satisfying their needs, and pursuing their education and health, as well as carrying out special responsibilities of parental care of one or both of husband's or wife's parents. In addition to the responsibilities of performing duties and social obligations such as attending weddings or funeral ceremonies of relatives and friends .. etc. Secondly: Family decision-making. Although many members confirm the participation of couples, at least in the household decision-making, particularly among families group, there are some cases that wives widely take decisions by themselves in many situations when husbands are abroad. There is also an increase in interventions of some relatives, such as a spouse's parent or his elder brother. Children, in some other cases, take up more space than the authority to make decisions if they are home alone in the original homeland and sometimes without reference to the opinion of the family or relatives. One of the wives confirmed that "the eldest son changed his school specialty from scientific to literary without reference to any one and we knew so accidently". Therefore, the decision making may be transferred to the eldest son if he lives alone with some other brothers. This is emphasized by another wife, saying that "her daughter suffers greatly from her brother's control as a result of the father's and mother's absence. The members of a young group confirm that they are becoming independent in decision-making after traveling because of a direct result of their economic independence of one side, and because of relative separation from family on the other. Hashim (2005) noted that the relations of kinship, neighborhood, and friendship play an important role in the expatriate relationship with his original homeland and that the majority of expatriates are linked to their homeland as well as that immigration increases

expatriate wife's burden. Richmond (2004) found out that expatriate family plays an important role in his decision to return to his country.

- 4- **Respondents of group members:** reveal that there is a change in the nature of family relationships at different levels, where the relationship between mother and children vary positively and negatively because mother has had to carry out the children responsibilities on her own after their father had travelled abroad. Some relatives may help her in such responsibility. By carrying family responsibilities alone, some members of family group say that a mother gains more power and more ability to make decisions related to power control (such as scheduling times for coming in and out of the house, intervening in friends' selection, making a decision whether to allow children to home visits, and identifying methods of punishment relative to behavior and disputes, etc.). Accordingly, the mother becomes more able to control children's behavior and by that children become more compliant to her. However, when a relative helps her in this area, some powers of dealings may be passed to her at the request of the father. A respondent in a group of workers says "in case of any problem that a mother cannot deal with, she resorts to one of my brothers, whom she follows their words strictly". A mother may become closer to their children and they become more cooperative with her. The children also become more responsible if they are not controlled by any one of the relatives. Similarly, another husband says "my children are resorting to their mother in every need, even during my existence of vacation period". As to the relationship between fathers and children, respondents revealed that fathers who are absent for prolonged periods from their children have a change in their role within the family and their relationships with children. Their roles and responsibilities of family, especially educational needs and various children satisfactions, are reduced and diminished. Father's roles are restricted to economic aspects, such as costs of private lessons, as a result of the lack of seriousness and absence of commitment to the process of education as a result of father's travel, or because of over careflessness of satisfying needs, especially in the age of late childhood or adolescence. As to children who are in early childhood, they are father-seated apathy and lacking a sense of paternity, having a feeling to their fathers as equal as a stranger. At the beginning of a vacation, a father feels that children's relationship is not stronger until they get used to his presence and their relationship improves. For the relationship between a husband and his wife, the study shows that expatriate 's accompany of his wife strengthens the relationship between the couples and increases their privacy, feeling independent of any relatives interventions in their family life. It also strengthens social and emotional links of couples. expatriate family is essentially the hub of his social life abroad and his main supporter of him, especially if all family members are together within the expatriate community. In case of the difficulty of such family integration and due to many changes of women's roles as previously mentioned, burdens and responsibilities increase and reflect negatively on the couple's marital relationship, where they consider each other as a responsible for his/ her sufferings, pressures and burdens, as a result of significant negative relationship between them. Moreover, the length of the period of absence may reduce the emotional relationship

between the couples. One of the respondents confirms that "my wife is fed up of my working abroad and bored of increasing children responsibilities." On the other side, the shift from the traditional role of a wife, in which the wife control many authorities, leads to a dispute of dominance, especially at times of vacation when a husband returns home and wants to regain his role. In addition, a husband may feel unfamiliar to some situations in his family, because of acquired behaviors, habits, and new responsibilities he gained from expatriate community, which leads to numerous disputes and family crisis. One of the respondents reflects this and says: "when I travel, I disagree with children's many actions, by which various problems occur with their mother". Teaching Staff (1999) found that such impact of migration to oil-producing countries on different social values.

Fourthly: The Future Vision of Expatriate Egyptian Groups

As to the future vision of Egyptian expatriate groups in the light of the social and economic transformations in both Saudi and Egyptian societies, the study found out that there is a lack of overall vision and defined goals because of unofficial formation of these groups. This fact can be inferred from the flexibility of joining new individuals to the group, and the flexibility of getting out if conditions change or on achieving the objectives of travel. Though respondents mentioned many examples that reveal this fact, the study found out that the future vision of expatriate Egyptian groups in Jeddah city is linked to general factors that all groups confirm, and special factors related to the characteristics and the nature of each and separate internal groups configuration. In general, the study found out the following:

- 1- There is a general consensus among group members on the idea of temporary migration because permanent migration is not in their long term strategy, regardless of the time period in which they want to achieve their goals, or the period they have already spent. The most recent and the oldest expatriate , who spent thirty years abroad, emphasize the need to return to the homeland. This is in line with the general features of Egyptian migration to Gulf communities that is temporary in the whole, reflecting a severe correlation to the original homeland the unwillingness of future planning to leave it forever.
- 2- The problems, difficulties, and limitations, which Egyptian society suffer abroad, plays an important role in shaping this vision. Examples of these difficulties previously illustrated in a separate section, which in the whole call for the need to adapt with these problems temporarily, but alternative to return to the homeland are limited.
- 3- The economic and social conditions in expatriate community of lower salaries and reduced benefits for encouraging expatriates , as well as higher prices and cost of living also play an important role in this regard.

For example, a respondent was forced to bear the expenses of his children's school fees, which cut a large part of his monthly salary and which was previously paid by the company, confirms that he is thinking seriously to return home, whereas another one believes that limiting the bonus of living cost to only Saudi colleagues makes him feel discrimination and severe anxiety and search for a partner in a business venture in the homeland. Many other examples emphasize that the future vision of expatriates is to return

home and not to continue in the Gulf countries.

- 4- The increasing of distinction feelings between expatriates and Saudis at the official level in many forms, including economic, service, and legal matters.
At the social level, distinction takes forms of daily transactions, the priority of movement in roads and traffic lights, which respondents confirm its increasing intensity in recent years with high rates of unemployment in Saudi society. Such unemployment is reflected in the forms of behaviors, such as social rejection that refers to the dislike of expatriates who, from their point of views, are the stealers of their natural chances in their community. This drives expatriates towards the formation of a future bouncing vision for returning to their homeland.
- 5- The study also found out that there is a direct impact of the changes related to recent economic, social, and political events in Egyptian society that enforce such vision. All group members subjected to this study are bewildered and very anxious about the situation at their home country- especially with the foggy scene, which makes it difficult to determine any features for the future. They assert that the primary determinant for staying abroad is the desire of the employer whether to renew or terminate their contract. Similarly, [Massoud \(1992\)](#) found out that there are floundering policies and lack of vision in regulatory Egyptian labors across different decades.
- 6- The enforcement of certain economic policies in Saudi Arabia, especially the system of Saudization. Respondents revealed that official plans and procedures that aim to replace foreign labor with native labors in Saudi society. The taken actions to achieve this goal play an important role in determining the future vision of each group member. Respondents confirm that the system of Saudization doesn't help to draw future plans of expatriates continuation abroad, especially after recent regulations of renewal residencies and contracts to only one year. It is also recently said that expatriate contracts of six-year period will be fired. Another respondent similarly says "we are here day by day residents", a reference to the lack of predictability and loss of future planning.
- 7- There is no proportionality between what is gained and what is prospect of migration. The stability or fluctuation down wards of salaries, the general reduction of benefits, the increase of residence permit renewal fees, the increase of living burdens, the increase of return visas, the increase of the employer's requirements and problems related to the sponsorship system, the continuous and undisciplined increase of rent, and the weak opportunity of children's public education are all considered economic pressures over expatriates , especially for those who have the opportunity to return to their jobs in home country, making them think in returning to their home. As to the level of the internal configuration privacy of each group, the study found out the followings:

4. CONCLUSION

First, the Nature of Formation

- 1- The results revealed that the expatriate Egyptian groups formation is automatic and irregular, but it is governed by some demographic variables, such as profession and age

match as well as education level. The lack of regulations or official non-governmental organization (NGO) among Egyptians, whereas some minor restrictive associations of rural Egypt people, which kinship or tribal affiliation play an important role in its formation.

- 2- The objectives of group formations are multiple and includes economic, social, psychological, safekeeping, and networking objectives.
- 3- Chronological history of group formations is open and determined by God's will, by labor conditions and policies in the expatriate community, or by achieving the desired goals.
- 4- The rules governing membership is not associated with any regulations or declared conditions to accept members.
- 5- Demographic characteristics and social needs of members, and the method of travel to the expatriate community plays an important role in the internal configuration of the members of the groups.
- 6- Members' various tasks are characterized by haphazard and non-specific roles or responsibilities, but they are associated with factors such as experience of expatriates community, or some characteristics of social acceptance, such as integrity, generosity, old age, better professional status, and other attributes that give a comparative advantage to some members than others.

Second: Opportunities Continuity and Interactivity

The opportunities of continuity and interaction reflect a high degree of internal adjustment among members and the outer world of the expatriates community that can be determined through some indicators, including:

- 1- The criteria of residence selection are indicators to communication and interaction liability. It has been shown that the Egyptians gatherings are important reasons for the choice of residential location.
- 2- The reality and the extent of social relationship show participation of many practices in holiday festivities and various events.
- 3- Assistance in hard times: the study found out that there is a high degree of support and solidarity between different group members in times of crisis.

Thirdly: Social Impacts

- 1- The types of social relations: Such varies, hence some relations have positive impacts, e.g., continuation of communication between expatriates and their families, relatives and friends in various methods and means. Acquaintances, neighbors, and friends perform many duties and social responsibilities of the expatriate family on behalf of the absent father.
- 2- Negative features are like breaking some social relations as a result of work involvement and the difficulty of communicating all acquaintances, or the allowance of other people to intervene family life and the violate its privacy. Some expatriates are also desiring to establish new social relations that are in accordance with the socio-economic change of the

new residence after migration.

- 3- The change in family structure for expatriate groups: The results of the study show some aspects of the structural change of the family, including the "fusion family" phenomenon in its various forms that have emerged as a direct result of father migration. Husbands account this for the difficulty of being responsible for the whole family living costs in the expatriate community.
- 4- The change in the roles and functions of expatriate family groups: the results showed changes in many aspects of family functions to expatriate groups, as the increase of mother's responsibilities and father's shrinking role, and the change of household decision-making to the mother.
- 5- Family relations of expatriate groups: the results showed that there is a change in the nature of the relationship between mother and children, which varies, e.g., positively and negatively due to mother's control of children responsibilities. For the relationship between father and children: the results showed that there is a contraction in father's roles and responsibilities, which are restricted to economic role. The results also showed some differences in father's role if expatriate's wife accompanied him, which strengthens their relationship and increases their privacy in comparison with her stay in the original community, where her role has many changes and is compounded by the burdens and responsibilities that reflect negatively on the marital relationship. The two couples suffer from pressures and burdens that each of them relate to the other, resulting in significant negative impacts. Moreover, the length of the period abroad may shrink the life of their emotional relationship. And responsibilities that reflect negatively on the marital relationship in the form of load each of the parties to the other of responsibility for the suffering of the pressures and burdens back significant negative effects on the relationship between them, as well as the length of the period of absence may reduce the emotional relationship between the couple.

Fourthly: The Future Vision

The study found out that there is a lack of comprehensive vision and defined goals because of unofficial formation of these groups. However, results showed that the future vision is associated with certain factors, including: such as the idea of temporary migration, The economic and social conditions in expatriate community of lower salaries and reduced benefits for encouraging expatriates, as well as higher prices and cost of living. A growing sense of discrimination between expatriates and natives at the official level in many forms, and the direct reflection of economic, social and political changes, and applying some economic policies in Saudi community, such as Saudization system, renewal-residence permit and contracts decisions, and no-proportionality between what is gained and what is prospect of migration.

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