

Media Influence on Social Policy Transformation for 'Orphans with Special Circumstances' in Saudi Arabia: A Historical Analysis within the Framework of Vision 2030 and Social Work Advocacy

Eman Yousif Alhjaji

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology & Community Service, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Dammam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, eyalhjaji@iau.edu.sa

Abstract

The paper examines the role of media in transforming social policies for orphans of unknown parentage in Saudi Arabia, also referred to as orphans with special circumstances. Leveraging a historical methodology with focused media analysis, the research explores an evolution of media coverage in Saudi society from early narratives that massively marginalized the orphaned community to progressive representations that focus on empowerment and inclusivity. A detailed analysis of statements and policy documents from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and various charitable organizations like the Al-Wedad and Ekha'a reveal the role of media-led campaigns in promoting resilience and community for orphans with unknown parentage, such as integrating them with alternative families. The analysis also challenges media-propagated portrayals that cause social stigma and resource limitations, highlighting key areas and promising potential collaboration among the media, national policies, and social reforms in improving support for orphans with special circumstances. The findings suggest that strategic media engagement, grounded in social work principles, can be a powerful tool for policy advocacy, public education, and social transformation, ultimately contributing to Vision 2030's mission of fostering an inclusive society.

Keywords: Orphans with special circumstances, unknown parentage, Saudi Arabia, social policies, charitable organizations, media coverage, historical analysis, alternative families.

In the Saudi context, orphans with exceptional circumstances expressly referred to orphans whose parentage is unknown. The orphaned children encompass "those who have lost their parents and could not be taken care of by other family members and those who were born out of marriage and have been abandoned (unknown lineage)" (Ashaalan & Al-Zeiby, 2015, p.21). Most of these orphans are cared for by primary care institutions in Saudi Arabia, providing full accommodations. The foster care

institutions often comprise several children aged differently and one caregiver, providing healthcare, education, and recreational activities (Sochos & Al-Jasas, 2020). Social workers and psychologists care for the children, exemplified by the dedicated six to eight official working hours. Social workers are instrumental in placing children in permanent homes from foster care and ascertaining their well-being while still in the foster system. They also help place children with alternative families through the Alternative

Family Program. The Al-Wedad Association, authorized by the Ministry, has been responsible for placing orphans of unknown parentage, from birth up to the age of two, with alternative families. In addition to social work and reforms, the media plays a significant role as a transformative force in shaping social attitudes and influencing policy. Historically, media has been a powerful tool for changing perceptions and advocating for marginalized groups, including orphans (Keely & Little, 2017). Thus, a collaborative effort between media representation and social policies can address issues that orphans with special circumstances face. A historical analysis of the framework of Vision 2030 and social work advocacy reveals the pivotal role of media influence in shaping public perception and representation of orphaned children in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 framework, which encompasses significant goals for inclusion and community empowerment, provides a contemporary backdrop against which these policies are evolving. The Vision 2030 goals have influenced the shift from residential care to social homes. Evidence suggests poor satisfaction among orphaned children with institutional shelter care, inspiring the transfer to social homes (Mohamed, 2023). This signifies one of the most significant manifestations of the community's endorsement of protecting orphans in Saudi society under the increased attention to the non-profit sector (Mohamed, 2023). Additionally, social work plays a crucial role in this transformation, as the field advocates for policy changes that address the needs of vulnerable populations like orphans of unknown parentage. Social work is also exemplified in the shift to social homes, as community endorsement was pivotal to informing the policy changes. The paper aims to trace the evolution of media coverage related to orphans with special circumstances and assess its impact on social work practices and policies in Saudi Arabia to align with Vision 2030's inclusivity and equity objectives.

Literature Review

Historical Context of Social Policies in Saudi Arabia

Cultural, religious, and social factors have significantly influenced Saudi society's traditional approaches to orphan care. The House of Education in Medina was the initial home developed in the Kingdom to care for orphans; it opened in Muharram in 1352 AH and was named Orphanage of the Two Holy Mosques and National Works (Mohamed, 2023). The second was the orphanage in Mecca, followed by the one in Riyadh, which was created to share the competition and responsibility of orphan care among the non-governmental charitable sector and government agencies in Saudi Arabia (Mohamed, 2023). Other charitable organizations that have significantly contributed to social policies in the country include the Ekha'a Foundation, Kayan Association, and Tamkiin Association, which often provided basic needs but did not incorporate orphans fully into mainstream society because of cultural stigma (Arab et al., 2021). Overall, the most prevalent orphan care in Saudi Arabia for the longest time was institutional shelter care, which was phased by the Ministry of Labor and Social Development (now renamed) due to their unsatisfactory care levels.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development launched the "Social Houses" program within the paradigm of construction and empowerment efforts that aimed to implement and activate the most up-to-date practices for the care of orphans by progressively shifting them from shelters to model social homes based on specific controls and guidelines and under the Ministry's supervision and follow-up (Mohamed, 2023). This initiative supplemented Saudi Arabia's commitment to caring for children with unknown parentage and an aim to attain the highest levels of integration of the orphans into society by affording them a family atmosphere. This helps them overcome loss and enhances their social departure and psychological stability.

Media's Role in Saudi Policy Formation

The media has the potential to serve as an awareness tool, a platform for advocacy, and a way to pressure policymakers. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a Ministry of Media that fosters and preserves the Saudi identity, showcases the country's accomplishments and significance in regional and international forums, and spreads the actual Islamic values and image in the lives of Saudi citizens (Saudipedia, 2024). Almakaty (2024) states that the Saudi media highlights significant reforms and projects such as the NEOM development, which is depicted as a hub for economic activity and a beacon for environmental sustainability and technological innovation within the Middle East. This reflects the media's role in spreading national pride and defining public perception that positively influences internal and external investment, particularly in high-profile initiatives (Bolin & Miazhevich, 2018). This is the case when transforming social policies for orphans with particular circumstances. By covering the pertinent issues related to orphans with exceptional circumstances, such as the living conditions in foster care, educational activities, scholarship opportunities, workshops, and mentorship programs, the media can aid in transforming social policies concerning orphans and help improve public perception regarding the identity and positioning of Orphaned children in society.

Vision 2030 and its Social Policy Objectives

Following the transformations witnessed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to enact the vision of the present for the future via the Vision 2030 and ambitious programs, encompassing the Quality of Life Program that emphasized strides to make the Saudi society the best destination for residents and citizens, it is clear that the Saudi nation has been interested in caring for orphans (Mohamed, 2024). Vision 2030 postulates diverse goals, including improving the lives of marginalized populations, including people with special needs, women, the elderly, and children, among others, alongside orphans, which are

demonstrated in social protection priorities. Social work is essential to these goals, bridging gaps in support and advocating for policies that enhance well-being and integration for all society members (Alshuwaikhat & Mohammed, 2017). Additionally, media coverage profoundly emphasizes the social reform initiated under Vision 2030, especially those associated with empowering vulnerable groups such as women and orphans. For instance, the media reports often cover the amendments to women's driving rights and augmented participation in the workforce. Almakaty (2024) states that the media usually approached this as a dual narrative of "one that aligns with the traditional values and the other that champions progressive reform, articulating a vision of a modern state that respects its heritage while boldly marching towards the future" (p.67). This dualism drives social reforms, including those in orphan care.

Methodology

Historical Methodology

The study reviews sources published from 2000 to the present to construct a narrative of media involvement in social policy formation. This encompasses an examination of news archives, public campaigns, broadcasts, and government announcements associated with orphans with special circumstances. The extensive historical analysis aids the study in accruing critical information regarding the inception of human rights policies addressing issues affecting children with unknown parentage, media coverage of associated events, and the significance of this portrayal to public perception. The analysis will also compare the evolution of media representation before and after adopting the Vision 2030 goals that aim to enhance social reform in Saudi Arabia alongside economic diversification.

Media Content Analysis

The researcher analyzes media coverage, including thematic analysis, by categorizing articles, broadcasts, and campaigns into themes like "advocacy for services" and "policy

milestones.” Identifying these key terms in research articles, news publications, and press releases will underscore analysis of the terminologies and portrayals of orphans with special circumstances in the media. This analysis covers influence patterns and helps link specific media types’ engagement with social policy changes. It is critical to understand this phenomenon because research has proven media representation’s significant role in driving public perception and policy formation. Therefore, the media content analysis could reveal how media narratives have evolved and how their relation to policy has shifted.

Data Collection and Selection Criteria

The researcher extensively explored significant social work documents and policy statements, prioritizing those that reveal shifts in governmental or public perspectives on orphans by perusing non-governmental organizations’ websites and government agency online sites. For instance, the Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development obtained official policy documents. Scholarly articles also provided critical information to back claims and support analysis deductions.

Findings

Evolution of Media Coverage on Orphans with Special Circumstances

Media coverage of orphans in Saudi Arabia has significantly evolved. For instance, in the early 2000s, media coverage focused more on charity and basic needs. The literature and awareness regarding orphanhood and child neglect in Saudi Arabia was extremely limited in the 20th century. According to Eissa and Almuneef (2010), it was not until 2000 that official child protection began when the national media acknowledged child abuse and neglect (CAN) as a public issue by the national media, addressing the lack of services and legislation. Despite this recognition, the first stage of national initiatives that were focused on preserving children’s rights and alleviating child maltreatment was only enacted in 2004. During

this time, several governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations were developed and directed to attain the stipulated goals against child neglect, alongside the daring of the first Child Protection Act (Eissa & Almuneef, 2010). The national media was pivotal in raising public awareness of CAN practices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Also, diverse multidisciplinary teams were created in major hospitals to serve neglected and abused children (AlFarhan et al., 2022). Despite the pervasive media coverage, most active reporting and publications highlighted the gruesome qualities of orphanages, the effects of child neglect and abuse on the children, and the need for charitable donations and efforts to help the struggling, vulnerable populations. Even though they most accurately represented real-time occurrences, the negative representation most likely shaped a negative public perception, resulting in people associating orphans with struggles and limitations.

However, after Vision 2030’s announcement, there has been a marked shift toward stories emphasizing social inclusion and empowerment. Following the focus of Vision 2030’s goals in enhancing everyone’s well-being and creating a vibrant society, most news outlets partner with charitable organizations and government agencies to report on educational programs and achievements of orphaned children that highlight their strengths rather than focusing on their shortcomings. For instance, the National Family Safety Program (NSFP), established by the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) and the National Guard Health Affairs, addresses child protection, encompassing vulnerable children and orphans through public awareness and advocacy (Almuneef et al., 2019). The program leverages televised partnerships and educational campaigns to emphasize the significance of a safe, nurturing family environment, whether biological or alternative family. This observed change bears considerable implications for public perception, policy development, and

inclusion of susceptible communities, such as orphans, in everyday societal events.

Impact of Public Awareness Campaigns

For example, the campaign “A Family of Every Orphan” represented a media initiative aimed at reducing stigma and promoting the integration of orphans into alternative families. This is a Christian organization helping orphans find loving families in their home nations (A Family for Every Orphan, 2024). Featured widely on social media, television, and website pages, this campaign helped soften societal attitudes, which indirectly led to government support for inclusive policies in orphan care. The media coverage has helped facilitate comprehensive care for orphans, actively seeking suitable families and integrating them into society. Another example demonstrating the impact of public awareness campaigns was the role of local media in changing public attitudes regarding CAN during the first development of national strategies addressing sensitive issues. The local media campaigns significantly highlighted the problem from 2004, and afterward, engaging in active reporting succeeded in converting CAN practices of various levels of severity into socially unacceptable behaviors” (Eissa & Almuneef, 2010, p.32). This coverage also massively influenced government support for human rights issues in the country and its dedication to complement regular reports on Saudi Arabia’s adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child articles. Therefore, public awareness campaigns significantly shape public perceptions, champion government support, and influence policy development and implementation.

Social Work Interventions and Policy Outcomes

The Sanad program portrays an example of a successful policy shift influenced by media narratives. Supported by public media campaigns, the Sanad program advocated for legal rights and psychological services for orphans (Abdel Aziz, 2022). Since 2008, the

program has worked toward providing a quality life for every orphan through support and a comprehensive perspective to improve the alternative parental care system by establishing care homes and empowering the orphaned youth. The Saudi government aims to abolish the residential care system due to the numerous issues faced by orphans of unknown parentage. Extensive research has uncovered that children living in institutions may battle mental health and compatibility issues alongside mental disorders like low self-esteem, social withdrawal aggression, anxiety, and depression (Ashaalan & Al-zeiby, 2015; Delva et al., 2009). They also suffer from symptoms of poor physical health than those in their biological homes or living with alternative families (Debiasi et al., 2012). Therefore, the Saudi government seeks to connect orphans from a young age with alternative families to support their stability and integration into society, aligning with the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 to empower this group.

The Sanad program leverages diverse media coverage efforts, including knowledge creation and dissemination through research, publications, and active participation in regional and international conferences (Abdel Aziz, 2022). These contribute to legislation advancements and promise better lives and opportunities for orphaned youth. Such social work intervention presents promising results regarding improving labor policies in the country, particularly among vulnerable groups such as orphans with special circumstances, a phrase officially adopted by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

Another excellent example of social work intervention is the Foster-Family Program enacted by the Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development. The program leverages digital tools to electronically connect families with orphans with eligible children (Human Resources and Social Development, 2024). Adopted in 2019, the terms of the conditions for fostering stipulate the requirement of the family to take care of the orphan and treat them as they

would a biological child in spending, education, charity, and all other affairs until they attain the legal age of relying on themselves (Human Resources and Social Development, 2024). Such advocacy, paired with media coverage, has resulted in policy changes that have enhanced social service findings for orphan care, aligning with social work goals of fostering comprehensive well-being.

Discussion

Media as an Advocacy Tool in Social Work

Media representations are pivotal to producing sociocultural pressures. For instance, regardless of the legal and social progress in civil rights, restrictive and stereotypical gender-based representations seem very prevalent in specific contexts in the contemporary era (Santonnicolo et al., 2023). Similar representations can translate to other social reform efforts and the representation of vulnerable groups like orphans with special circumstances. For instance, literature and film almost always depict residential homes and orphanages as evil, soul-crushing places (Evelina, 2023). Besides, orphaned children are often portrayed as lacking ambition, isolation, confidence, and unloved with limited dreams (Puschmann-Nalenz, 2018). When orphaned children appear in some news outlets, they are often depicted with stereotypes, such as “starving children in Africa” (Nathanson, 2013). Social work professionals detected an occasional cleaning of media coverage on sensationalism, portraying orphans as charity cases rather than individuals with the potential for complete social integration. These depictions exhibit orphans as primary recipients of charity instead of as active participants in society.

This representation as needing charity propagates treatment with pity and overprotection from society. Research has shown that orphans do not prefer to present their needs through a pity-based approach. For instance, after leaving the system, a girl approached the Ekha’a institution for money to join a club that would help her integrate into

society. In a letter, the organization stated that she was an orphan with special circumstances, and they hoped to help her by having her join the club and assess their conditions (Alhjaji, 2022). She stated that everyone in the club then became aware of her orphaned status and treated her with a compassionate and pitiful look. The institution wrote a letter the same way when she applied for a license to work for Uber or Careem. While waiting, an employee approached her, saying, “You are the presenter of a letter of an orphan with special circumstances. Welcome!” (Alhjaji, 2022, p.247). While society might think this shows some level of compassion, it only emphasizes their differences, making them feel embarrassed.

Such representations fall under the encompassing concept of social categorization. This is a “universal mechanism for making sense of a vast social world with ports in perceptual, conceptual, and social systems” (Rhodes & Baron, 2020, p.359). Social categorization involves determining how classifying individuals is culturally meaningful, their potential uses to predict, evaluate, and explain behavior, and how people’s identities relate to the system of representation and categorization (Rhodes & Baron, 2020). Therefore, while social categorization has adversely impacted the perceptions and representation of orphaned children in the media, it can also be used to shape positive depictions and inspire better attitudes toward children with unknown parentage in society. The power of leveraging social categorization as a media advocacy tool in social work is exemplified by the Ataa initiative by the Ekhaa Foundation, which provides educational and social services to orphans to help them become more self-sufficient. The program partners with Saidi media channels to spotlight the success stories of orphans who have benefitted from the program, including young professionals and university graduates. Social workers perceive such messaging and media portrayal as effective in changing societal attitudes and augmenting public support for

inclusive practices prioritizing orphans' educational and professional development.

Lessons from Historical Media Engagement

Continuous media engagement has resulted in multiple successes, such as keeping orphan care on the public agenda. Reflecting on global campaigns, advocacy actions such as "Family for Every Child" have encouraged public support for foster care and developed and implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Family for Every Child aimed to help children find new families to re-establish contact with their biological families (UNICEF, 2024). In Saudi Arabia, The Ministry of Labor and Social Development launched the Social Homes initiative to care for orphans through progressive transfer from residential care to alternative families with specific criteria and controls (Human Resources and Social Development, 2022). The Ministry has also delegated the care for orphans with special circumstances to organizations like the Al-Wedad Foundation, which serves orphaned children without parental care by providing suitable families and ensuring their care (Al Wedad Foundation for Development, 2024). These efforts emanate from a commitment to building a compassionate and socially supportive community.

The Ministry also provides specialized care for orphans further classified under vulnerable groups such as women. In Saudi Arabia, all care dimensions for abandoned young females of Saudi nationality based on government principles are overseen and handled by the Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development, alongside its Department of Orphan Care. The care aspects are afforded by residential care organizations and "subsequent to leaving care and getting married, up to the age of 30, by charity organizations such as Ekha'a" (Alhjaji, 2022, p.39). For females not placed with alternative families, social institutions provide training and specialized care from age six until they attain marriage-appropriate age with follow-up programs as the individual married and a subsidy of £12,407 to the female

upon marriage (Alhjaji, 2022). Generally, the Ministry has aimed to enhance the care of orphans with unknown parentage to ensure that they develop core skills and abilities to the fullest extent possible.

The increased media coverage also traverses the international scene, especially since the rollout of Vision 2030 objectives. On the one hand, the international community acknowledged the bold strides toward economic diversification and social reforms like those aimed at enhancing women's status and improving the quality of life for all citizens, including orphans (Almakaty, 2024). On the other hand, there is still prevalent scrutiny regarding Saudi Arabia's human rights record and the perceived top-down imposition of these reforms (Almakaty, 2024). For instance, renewed media outlets such as The Financial Times and The Washington Post have raised concerns regarding the transparency and viability of flagship projects such as NEOM, pointing toward potential challenges in attracting required international investment because of the ambitious scale of projects and political risks (Almakaty, 2024). Such concerns can translate to social reforms, especially in previously less focused issues like caring for orphans with special circumstances. The top-down approach might prioritize economic diversification projects, especially following increased efforts to reduce reliance on oil revenues and the need to attract international investment through media attention. As a result, the less economically feasible projects might take backstage in the Vision 2030 efforts. For example, an article reported that implementing a two-year-old law enacted to care for orphans in the United Arab Emirates was delayed because of the construction of a new and expanded shelter (Salem, 2014). Consistent media attention has also propagated harmful stereotypical notions regarding orphaned children. For these reasons, social work practitioners can learn from past media engagement to better frame future

campaigns, ensuring they advocate effectively for inclusion without reinforcing negative biases.

Alignment with Vision 2030

The media has been pivotal in aligning public perception with the inclusivity goals outlined in Vision 2030, which aims to make Saudi society more equitable. One of the most covered events in the press is the annual coverage of the International Day of the Orphan, recognized by the United Nations, celebrated on the first Friday of April each year. The Arab world dedicates this day to underscoring the issues orphans face and raising awareness regarding their concerns, problems, and rights. The events often encompass government-proposed activities, special educational programming on television, and workshops. Such events provide much-needed visibility to children with unknown parentage and illustrate the government's commitment to their well-being, which reflects the Vision 2030 goal of ensuring social well-being, a good quality of life, a healthy lifestyle, and a positive living environment" (Digital Government Authority, 2024, p.1). As a result, social reforms through increased media coverage of orphans in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia align with the country's plans.

By shifting the narrative from charity to rights and inclusion, media coverage has facilitated social work objectives centered on dignity and self-sufficiency for orphans. Initiatives by organizations like the Charitable Foundation for Orphans Care (Ekhaa) and the social nurseries for orphans with special circumstances enforced by the Social Affairs Agency are critical players in this shift. These programs aim to provide academic support to others with special circumstances, including mentorship programs. These educational workshops address the unique needs of this vulnerable population, as well as scholarship opportunities. As a result, they empower the children and encourage them to focus on their strengths and soar to greater heights beyond the limiting identity of being an orphan. These

efforts align with the Vision 2030 goal of "creating a vibrant society in which all citizens can thrive and pursue their passions" (Digital Government Authority, 2024, p.1). They also help address the media-propelled stereotypes regarding growing up as an Orphan and the identity limitations imposed on vulnerable groups. For instance, implementing ongoing public education initiatives regarding orphans' rights can help alleviate stereotypes and advocate for their societal rights. Additionally, the anti-discrimination policy reforms have included provisions for orphans' mental health services, directly responding to advocacy by social workers who argued that mental health support is crucial for fostering resilient, well-adjusted adults (Ministry of Health, 2023). The media documentation of such policy reforms augments social work regarding orphans' quality of life and well-being.

Lastly, there is an increasing need for continued social work involvement to support the policies in practice. For instance, the government and non-governmental operations can collaborate to provide holistic and robust programs that empower and strengthen orphans in special circumstances in the country. This joint effort will streamline resource allocation and focus media efforts on a holistic initiative instead of divided ones like the Watan by the Ministry of Education and the Ataa by the Ekhaa Charitable Foundation, a social organization for caring for orphans of unknown parentage. Another example could be a collaboration between Saudi social work associations, national television, and official national platforms designed to underscore the significance of social acceptance and policy support for orphans. This collaboration can focus on shedding light on the uncovered aspects of being an orphan, opportunities of being raised in foster care, and the achievements of the orphaned children in their educational and professional lives by overcoming shortcomings of being in the residential care system or alternative families. The joint campaign can comprise workshops,

short documentaries, and public service announcements to foster empathy and understanding, reflecting Vision 2030's call for a society that upholds the rights of all individuals, regardless of their background.

Conclusion

This paper analyzes how the Saudi media has influenced policies regarding orphans with special circumstances. Comprehensive historical methodology and media content analysis reveal the media's role in transforming social policies for orphans of unknown parentage. The active reporting and documentation strategies have significantly evolved, influencing public opinions and policy shifts toward greater inclusiveness. The evolution is exemplified by the portrayal of orphans needing charity in the

early 2000s, with media efforts informing policy reforms to provide humanitarian aid to a much more empowerment-centered depiction after the announcement of strategic Vision 2030 goals post-2016. Current programs and media representations cover empowerment efforts regarding educational and professional opportunities, with televised programs covering the success stories of orphans nationwide. Therefore, recommendations such as collaboration between social work efforts and the media can further support policy advancements for orphans in Saudi Arabia. Initiatives like developing training programs for social workers on media collaboration or establishing partnerships with media organizations can help sustain awareness campaigns aligned with Vision 2030.

WORKS CITED

- A Family for Every Orphan. (2024). The Annual Report: Because Children Belong in Families. <https://afamilyforeveryorphan.org/>
- Abdel Aziz, A. H. (2022). Deinstitutionalization and Alternative Care Systems: A Case Study of Children Without Parental Care in Egypt. *Institutional Reforms, Governance, and Services Delivery in the Global South*, 75-99.
- Al Eissa, M., & Almuneef, M. (2010). Child abuse and neglect in Saudi Arabia: Journey of recognition to implementation of national prevention strategies. *Child abuse & neglect*, 34(1), 28-33. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2009.08.011>
- AlFarhan, M., AlMelhem, J., ElMahadi, A., AlTurki, H., Hassan, S., & Almuneef, M. (2022). Child neglect in Saudi Arabia: The neglected form of child maltreatment. *Saudi Medical Journal*, 43(6), 610. <https://doi.org/10.15537/smj.2022.43.6.20220117>
- Alhaji, E. (2022). Young people leaving care in Saudi Arabia: what needs to be done? (Doctoral dissertation, Durham University).
- Almakaty, S. S. (2024). Saudi Vision 2030 and International Media Coverage and Response: A Comparative Study. *International Journal of International Relations, Media and Mass Communication Studies*, 12(2), 55-88. <https://tudr.org/id/eprint/2994>
- Almuneef, M., Saleheen, N. N., Al Shehri, F., & Al-Eissa, M. A. (2019). Understanding the needs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: child maltreatment prevention program development. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 93, 111-118. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.04.016>
- Alshuwaikh, H. M., & Mohammed, I. (2017). Sustainability matters in national development visions—Evidence from Saudi Arabia's Vision for 2030. *Sustainability*, 9(3), 408. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su9030408>
- Arab, S. H. Y., Zakariyah, H., & Abdullatif, A. A. M. (2021, November). Contemporary Developments in Waqf Beneficiaries—A Case Study of the Awqaf of the United Arab Emirates. In *International Conference on Business and Technology* (pp. 97-119). Cham: Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-08090-6_5
- Ashaalan, L., & Al-zeiby, I. (2015). Methods of Care for Children Living in Orphanages in Saudi Arabia (An Exploratory Field Study). *Journal of International Education Research*, 11(1), 21-28.

- Bolin, G., & Miazhevich, G. (2018). The soft power of commercialized nationalist symbols: Using media analysis to understand nation branding campaigns. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 21(5), 527-542. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367549417751153>
- Debiasi, L. B., Reynolds, A., & Buckner, E. B. (2012). Assessing emotional well-being of children in a Honduran orphanage: feasibility of two screening tools. *Pediatric nursing*, 38(3).
- Delva, W., Vercoutere, A., Loua, C., Lamah, J., Vansteelandt, S., De Koker, P., ... & Annemans, L. (2009). Psychological well-being and socio-economic hardship among AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children in Guinea. *AIDS care*, 21(12), 1490-1498. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540120902887235>
- Digital Government Authority. (2024). Vision 2030. GOV.SA. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/saudivision/?lang=en>
- Evelina, N. (2023). *Fierce Females on Television: A Cultural History*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Human Resources and Social Development. (2022). Ministry of Labor and Social Development launched the initiative of the model houses for orphans. <https://www.hrsd.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/268038>
- Human Resources and Social Development. (2024). Foster-Family program application. <https://www.hrsd.gov.sa/en/ministry-services/services/424146>
- Keeley, B., & Little, C. (2017). *The State of the Worlds Children 2017: Children in a Digital World*. UNICEF. 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.
- Ministry of Health. (2024). Anti-Discrimination Policy. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/Information-and-services/Pages/psychiatry.aspx>
- Mohamed, R. A. R. (2023). Social Homes and the Shift from Shelters to Social Homes in Light of Vision 2030 Directions. *Egyptian Journal of Social Work*, 15(1), 145-158. <https://dx.doi.org/10.21608/ejsw.2023.173199.1167>
- Nathanson, J. (2013). The pornography of poverty: Reframing the discourse of international aid's representations of starving children. *Canadian Journal of Communication*, 38(1), 103-120.
- Puschmann-Nalenz, B. A. R. B. A. R. A. (2018). Chapter Three "Some Things Remain Broken Forever": orphans and Orphanhood in Recent Narrative Representations Barbara puschmann-nalenz. *The Orphan in Fiction and Comics since the 19th century*, 111.
- Salem, O. (2014). Shelter is required before UAE can enforce abandoned child law. *Better Care Network*. <https://bettercarenetwork.org/news-updates/news/shelter-is-required-before-uae-can-enforce-abandoned-child-law>
- Santonniccolo, F., Trombetta, T., Paradiso, M. N., & Rollè, L. (2023). Gender and media representations: A review of the literature on gender stereotypes, objectification, and sexualization. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 20(10), 5770. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20105770>
- Saudipedia. (2024). Ministry of Media. <https://saudipedia.com/en/article/271/government-and-politics/ministries/ministry-of-media>
- Sochos, A., & Al-Jasas, N. (2020). Attachment provision in the Saudi orphanages: Exploring the narratives of residential staff. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 29(3), 244-254. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12415>
- UNICEF. (2024). Family for Every Child program. <https://help.unicef.org/family-for-every-child?language=en#:~:text=Its%20goals%20are%20to%20help,and%20guardianship%2C%20foster%20families>