

# The Impact of Foreign Workers on Society's Islamic Creed

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## Abstract

Socialization is one of the most important social processes. It transforms the child from a biological being to a social being. It constitutes the human and social behavior of the individual. It is the first pillar on which the elements of personality are based. Also, it is an important process in teaching what one likes and does not like to do under different circumstances. But, when the process of socialization is in the hands of domestic workers, multiple problems arise as a link to different cultures, religions, values, and principles. This study discusses the reality of foreign workers in general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and domestic workers in particular as they are being one of the family members; so they have a direct impact on children and their upbringing, then affects the social and creed values. Also, it searches the role of family and state in reducing their importation and avoiding their effects.

## Introduction

Due to the boom of oil price in the early 1970s at Saudi Arabia, the decision of exploiting the accumulated financial surpluses was taken, which led to comprehensive, integrated and rapid economic and social development. The priority was given to the development of infrastructure and human resources; to institutionalize them for administrative and technical purposes, and to prepare them for future work. These factors have led to the recruitment of large numbers of foreign workers from different countries of the world with different specialties and skills, because of the lack of national human resources available at that time in terms of quantity and quality, to meet all accelerated development requirements, its technical tasks, administrative responsibilities with its large projects, and Infrastructure aspects (Al-Tawishri, 2010; Salma, 2018). In the context of the employment of foreign workers in sectors of trade, industry and services in Gulf States in general and Saudi Arabia in particular, foreign servants and baby sitters have been operating in the Gulf family. This type of employment includes multiple nationalities, cultures, religions, languages, habits, traditions, values and ideas that are different from those of citizens. This raises the interest of researchers and intellectuals and those concerned with social work at the level of individuals and ministries concerned with this phenomenon, which is feared to have negative effects on the values of social and intellectual communication, social values, habits, patterns of behavior and religious beliefs, as these workers have direct contact with family and children (Zakari, 2006).

Consequently, Saudi families have recently undergone several social changes as a result of the irrational selection and employment of domestic workers and the consequent dysfunction of the family (Fraij, 2011). As well as structural imbalance is resulted from the entry of a strange person in family, the act of domestic workers as an alternative choice of mother's role, and the consequent decline in the role of the family in general and the mothers in particular in the process of socialization (Muti, 2012).

In general, these changes have led to poor social control in children and adolescents, as they have been subjected to corruption, manipulation and the acquisition of many habits, traditions and negative behaviors of domestic migrant workers in foreign cultures from the Saudi society culture, resulting in an increase in behavioral deviations within society and an increase in crime.

This paper aims to study the negative effect of foreign workers on Islamic creeds and values of Saudi society, especially the domestic workers, as they are being one of the family members; so they have a direct impact on children and their upbringing.

## Research Objectives

The basic aim of the study is to:

### Determine the impact of foreign workers on society's Islamic Creed

Study sub-aims are:

1. Study the Status of foreign workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
2. Search the influence of domestic workers on family's Islamic creed and belief principles.
3. Propose methods to reduce the negative effect of foreign workers on society's Islamic creed and belief.

## Research Questions

The basic question of the study is:

### What is the impact of foreign workers on society's Islamic Creed?

Study sub-questions are:

1. What is the status of foreign workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?
2. What is the influence of domestic workers on family's creed and belief principles of the?
3. How reducing the effect of foreign workers on society's Islamic creed and belief can be done?

### Research Significance

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is characterized by the widespread of non-Saudi labor, which stimulates the search for the reality of foreign workers in the Kingdom, and to highlight its negative impact of its existence, especially on religious beliefs, and the roles of educational institutions, family in reducing the importation and avoidance of its effects (Fraij, 2011).

This issue urges the scholars to study this negative phenomenon in society and to indicate its size, and pointed out the need to pay attention to it, as it is one of the basic social problems that affect the performance of the family and stability primarily, then affect the social stability, the future of children, and thus the future of the following generations (Omri, 2001).

These studies help to reduce the spread of negative effects of foreign workers and identify the most important positive and negative factors for the recruitment of them. In this study, variables and factors contributing to the spread of this phenomenon will be highlighted, in addition to its negative effects on the values of faith and belief of Saudi society, to reach results that help to reduce the effects of foreign labor on socialization in particular.

In particular, the study focuses on the socialization process of children by domestic workers in some Saudi families, because they have huge effects on child's personality, values, creed, beliefs and principles.

### Foreign Workers in Saudi Arabia

With the oil boom of the 1970s, the influx of foreign workers, often low skilled labor, began. In 1974, the number of foreigners in Saudi Arabia did not exceed 770 thousand, representing 12.5% of the population of 7 million Saudi Arabia's people at that time, after ten years, the number of foreigners was of 2 million, representing 23% of Saudi Arabia's population. The numbers of foreigners continued to increase without stopped despite the deceleration of economic in that period, bringing the number of foreigners to about 5 million in 1994, or 38% of the population, but today stands at the number of foreigners more than 10 million, representing 50% of Saudi Arabia's population of about 20 million (Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency-A, 2016). In other words, the number of foreigners between 1974 and 2016 has increased by over 1100%, while the number of Saudi nationals has not increased by more than 223% in the same period. The expatriate workers today are more than 84% of workers in the private sector (Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency-B, 2016). Figure [1] shows the numbers of foreign workers with respect to Saudi nationalities.

البيان	نسبة الذكور الى الاناث		نسبة الوطنى الى الوافد	
	ذكور	اناث	ذكور	اناث
وطنى	86.3	13.7	44.5	46.7
وافد	87.3	12.7	55.5	53.3
جملة	86.8	13.2	100	100

**Figure [1]: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYEES (15 YEARS AND OVER) IN SAUDI ARABIA (NATIONAL-FOREIGN) BY TYPE 2010 (Maghazi, 2015)**

If technical education and technical training were able to provide the necessary professional and technical Saudi manpower in appropriate numbers for the development plans in the Kingdom, there was no need to bring in large numbers of foreign workers. But, the problem lies in the reluctance of young aspiring to join colleges, vocational and technical institutes. At the same time, the State is keen to accelerate the process of progress and urbanization, taking advantage of the rise of oil prices, which created a gap between them and emerged an urgent need to bring in some foreign professions and disciplines (Maghazi, 2015).

### Foreign Workers Effects on Society's Creed and Belief Principles

Culture begins with a set of values and attitudes that are linked to the process of formation and its goals, which leads to the production of a culture that moves to new generations in society. Social formation is the formation of the individual through the cultivation of moral and religious values, each culture has a special character that distinguishes it from other cultures, and each culture tries to normalize its members by nature. It is therefore possible to observe the common character of the members of the culture that distinguishes them from others

(Jones, Presler-Marshall, Emirie, & Tefera, 2018).

The most distinguishing feature of Saudi Arabia is the distinctive approach of governance and judging to the law of God, the spread of science and education, the call to God, the promotion of virtue and the prevention of evil, the care of legitimate interests and social ties, taking new and useful in all spheres of life (Ayban, 2011).

Religion is a general feature of society. This is evident in the observance of Islamic duties and its rituals, in addition to the spread of many mosques and prayers, the keen on the legitimate culture, the question of the provisions of religion, the preservation of women in the country on the chastity and Hijab, and the prevalence of etiquette in the movements and transactions of people.

Undoubtedly, expatriate labor will influence these values and religious principles, whether intentional or not, because of their beliefs, ideas, attitudes, habits, customs, traditions and dialects. As a result of their intermingling with people, this affect will be felt, whether sensory or moral, visible or hidden, even in the long term (Al-Tawishri, 2010).

One of these negative effects is what appears on the behavior of children, educated by domestic workers, especially non-Muslim women, who are ignorant of matters of religion, faith and ethics. These workers have a huge negative effect resulted from instilling foreign values, ethics and returned traditions contrary to Islam in children.

There are many activities contrary to Islamic rules, which are carried out by migrant workers, especially non-Muslim, such as the spread of alcohol and drugs among the members of the Saudi society, which ultimately leading to the spread of corruption, moral decay and family disintegration. Alcohol and drugs abuse is one of the most serious social problems facing civilized and developing peoples, for their grave and cruel effects, which may outweigh wars and disasters with their social, economic and political effects (Yasiri, 2011).

### **Domestic Workers Effects on Family**

Family is the most important institution established in upbringing of the child, which is the first institution that applies the role of upbringing and education.

Child sees his family members as symbols in his world, because they are the only ones who interact with him on a daily and continuous basis. He gradually learns how to recognize their gestures, movements and emotions. Then parents teach him acceptable and socially unacceptable behavior, it also integrates the child into the general cultural context by teaching him different behavior patterns in society to which he belongs, and instilling the ideas and beliefs that become part of his personality (Ziadeh, 2006).

In some families, domestic workers spend a lot of time with the child, which resulted in accustomed to her habits. It should be noted that the presence of foreign workers at home has many negatives effects that outweigh the positives effects.

The problem lies in the upbringing nature that the child receives from domestic worker, because she conveys the culture of her environment and instills its habits, traditions and religion, as a child, by nature, acquires and imitates adults. Whatever the mother tries to make worker under observation, she cannot overcome this problem totally. But, Parents must monitor the worker to know how the worker deals with their children, and what values she instills in them (Orabi & Dakak, 2006).

Many studies and trends have warned members of the Saudi Muslim community of the existence of foreign workers at home between family members, because of the real danger to religion and belief. Especially if they are not Muslim, as well as influence on habits and attitudes, as well as the abandonment of the child from his mother, and thus influence the education in the child's behavior as well as the impact on ethics and faith values (Omari, 2003).

The non-Muslim domestic worker learns the children of polytheism and infidelity, such as maximizing void gods such as the sun, moon, planets, idols such as Buddha, cows.

Sometimes, domestic worker teach the child some words and phrases contrary to Islamic religion, and instilled in himself the love of the infidels, in addition to respect and love of their sanctities. The child is also monitored for performing some false religious rituals such as Hinduism, Buddhism and others, which has a huge effect in the child because he is vulnerable, so he will take it.

### **Family and State Role in Reducing Negative Effects of Foreign Workers**

Islam does not mind the existence of the servant by agreement of all jurists, but it is unfortunate that some families rent the servant to the children without selection and randomly, without controlling of legitimacy, educational and social aspects. Parents also ignore that some servants convey to children undesirable behaviors. The problems caused by servants have become frequent, constantly increasing, more pronounced and dangerous than they were.

It is important to limit the tasks of the domestic worker in the domestic work only, in addition to checking the selection of servant in terms of religion and rehabilitation, the definition of the servant traditions, religion and habits of the community, not to leave children with the servant for a long time. Also, parents must follow a

sound foundation in the choice of domestic workers, and not rely entirely on them in the upbringing of children, and treat them well (Al-Tawishri, 2011).

Family has a significant role in reducing the recruitment of workers and avoiding their negative effects, including (Ayban, 2011):

- ❖ Develop in children self-reliance and non-dependency.
- ❖ Instilling the love of work in general and profession in particular.
- ❖ To explain to its members everything that goes against the values of Islamic society.
- ❖ Consolidate Islamic values in child's minds and thus in their behavior.
- ❖ To clarify the negative effects of the involvement of some expatriate personnel.

As for the role of the state in reducing the phenomenon of foreign workers, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labor and the parties involved in bringing these workers has to carry out a number of procedures, which are (Ayban, 2011):

- ❖ Raise the costs of employing foreigners and recruitment even if gradually through legislation by increasing recruitment fees, visas or work permits or renewing them, which ultimately means additional costs borne by the employer and thus the costs of expatriate labor are somewhat equal to national labor costs.
- ❖ The State should encourage the private sector to employ national manpower through incentives and government subsidies for private companies and institutions that train Saudi labor. It was noted that young people were out of work in the private sector because of low or differential salaries between the public and private sectors.
- ❖ Set a minimum wage and salary for Saudi labor to reduce the difference in salaries between the two sectors, and this will lead the private sector to use national labor when it is noticed the low difference between the cost of Saudi and foreign workers.
- ❖ Increase the capabilities of the Saudi worker through training and qualification through professional centers, technical institutes, training institutions and human development centers.
- ❖ The Chambers of Commerce should train Saudi manpower through training programs prepared according to the needs of the private sector, and Short-term courses must be held to raise the efficiency of current Saudi private sector employees.

## Conclusion

Discovery of oil is one of the reasons for the spread of foreign workers in the Kingdom, in addition to the low wage of non-Saudi workers, and the emergence of many delusional establishments that trade in labor visas.

Foreign workers have a huge influence on reducing the commitment to Islamic and creed values, which led to disintegration of family relations, dissemination of deviant ideas and prohibited materials. The results of the study also showed family have an essential role in reducing the negative effects of foreign workers.

Actions, morals and suspicious behavior of servants and foreign workers must be monitored, in order to protect society and children in particular from these poisons and negative effects.

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