



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Section: *Sociology and Community Development*

Social sustainability in the UAE: Towards a comprehensive and sustainable development model

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the reality of Social Sustainability in the United Arab Emirates, in light of National Trends towards building a comprehensive and sustainable development model that takes into consideration Social Dimensions alongside economic and Environmental Issues. The study's importance, however, is mainly attributed to its direct connection to the "UAE Vision 2031," which places humans and quality of life at the core of its Evolution Policies, necessitating a deep understanding of Social Values, Justice, and Community Participation in achieving sustainable development. We should note, however, that the current study has adopted a Descriptive-Analytical Approach, using a questionnaire as the primary technique for data collection from a sample of 300 individuals representing the Emirati community, which was randomly selected. The collected data have been analyzed using descriptive statistical methods, through which the respondents' awareness level regarding Social Sustainability has been carefully measured to evaluate people's satisfaction with government policies and Initiatives. The results, after all, have shown a high realization of family cohesion and social justice, in addition to positive satisfaction with the state efforts exerted in the Fields of Health, Education, and Housing. However, there is an urgent need to enhance Community Participation in decision-making processes. Accordingly, and in light of these results, the study has developed a set of recommendations and proposals, the most prominent of which are. Integrating Social Sustainability Concepts into Educational Curricula; Developing National Indicators to measure Social Performance periodically, and promoting the partnership between the Public Sector and Civil Society in the implementation of Community-Oriented Programs and Initiatives; Encouraging initiatives related to supporting women and youth; and Leveraging digital transformation to enhance Community Communication and achieve greater comprehensiveness in development.

KEYWORDS: community participation, economic development, social sustainability, comprehensive development, sustainability, United Arab Emirates

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1. Introduction

The sustainability of economies, environments, and, most importantly, societies is a difficult task for governments worldwide. If governments do not promptly address this daunting challenge, the gap between their offerings and the requirements of the community will continue to widen. This is the reason why sustainability is no longer an option; it is a necessity that must be integrated into the very fabric of every business and activity. This has motivated organizations to assume a leadership role in the development of the concept of sustainable development (Upadhyay, D., 2024). The foundational postulates of econometrics and the economics of strategy establish “Economic Growth” as a standard for quantifying the development of nations on a global scale. Nevertheless, the metrics of economic development can vary significantly depending on the priorities of the countries. The sustainability accounting, management, and policy approach of a country is driven by a variety of strategies, including diversification, specialization, government decision-making, and sustainability leadership (Hassan, B., Hamdoon, B., & Ahmed, K. G., 2022). This approach also incorporates a variety of disciplinary approaches to enhance social and environmental sustainability, as well as the social and environmental repercussions of economic growth. A nation strives to improve the quality of life in society by enhancing its national wealth in conjunction with the acceleration of economic development. The majority of the economic growth achieved by nations was at the expense of increased inequality, weakened democracy, overconsumption, cultural identity loss, and higher unemployment, as evidenced by extensive past research on economic growth (Abdulkasoud, S., & Beheiry, S., 2023).

Over recent decades, the United Arab Emirates has undergone significant development in various sectors, driven by bold growth ambitions focused on Progress, Innovation, and Leadership. Central to this change is the integration of Sustainability into National Strategies, encompassing Environmental, Economic, and Social dimensions, with the Social aspect forming the foundation of authentic Sustainable Development. This is reflected in maintaining a balance between Economic Growth, Social Justice, and Quality of Life, while offering equal opportunities for all. Such an approach fosters cultural integration, supports vulnerable groups, and promotes the long-term sustainability of human development. Accordingly, the UAE has prioritized creating a comprehensive social model that upholds national identity, values cultural and demographic diversity, and builds a community capable of adapting positively to the era’s changes (Albrithen, A., 2023).

To improve the living conditions of low-income Emirati citizens and ensure access to essential services, the UAE’s federal and local governments launched public housing programs. Most units were built as single-family homes on large plots until 2005. However, a growing population and limited land led to smaller housing plots, making it harder to provide single-family housing for all Emirati citizens needing public housing (Almusalami, A., Alnaqbi, F., Alkaabi, S., Alzeyoudi, R., & Awad, M., 2024). To solve this, the UAE shifted to multi-family housing, introducing innovative vertical projects like Al Ghurfa in Al Fujairah and Diba Al Hosn in Sharjah. While these designs aim to meet Emirati families’ lifestyle needs, their success in achieving broader social sustainability goals has not yet been studied (Alghababsheh, M., & Galleary, D., 2022). This research first explored key social sustainability factors in multi-family housing design. It then compared the two local projects with global case studies to assess their social sustainability. The study identified gaps in the social sustainability of recent UAE public housing designs and suggested a set of principles and indicators to guide improvements, aiming to better achieve social sustainability in Emirati vertical public housing systems (Anabtawi, R., & Bleibleh, S., 2021).

It is important to note that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, UAE Centennial 2071, along with numerous Federal and Local Policies and Initiatives, emphasize the importance of the Social Dimension in the development process. This focus aims to build a cohesive society based on tolerance and coexistence, enabling effective participation in development. According to Shwedeh, F., Yas, N., & Abdijabar, Z. (2024), initiatives related to Community Empowerment, care for Senior Citizens, and social responsibility of both the Public and Private Sectors are key components of this approach (Elyat, M. N., Al Bayati, N. Y., Al Baloushi, N. A., Sarhan, M. I., Marks, A. A., Khudhair, H. Y., & Allouzi, A. S., 2024). The importance of this research stems from the urgent need to deepen our understanding of Social Sustainability as a core pillar of Sustainable Development in the United Arab Emirates (Chaudhry, I.S., 2022). However, with the rapid pace of economic and social change, it is crucial to analyze the progress made and evaluate the effectiveness of policies and

initiatives aimed at promoting Social Cohesion, achieving Social Justice, and improving the quality of life for all members of society. This can be done by gathering feedback from community members involved in Sustainable Development Plans to identify the most critical goals the country has achieved through its plans and vision (Allouzi, A.S., 2024).

1.1 Research Problem

The research problem we attempt to treat in the current study lies in the need to address and analyze the effectiveness of the Emirati Model in the creation of Social Sustainability as one of the essential pillars of Sustainable Development, with a focus on the Model's ability to balance Economic Growth, enhance Social Cohesion, and promote Social Justice. Nevertheless, we should note that despite the achievements made by the UAE in empowering various groups, improving quality of life, and reinforcing national identity, the challenges associated with Demographic Diversity, Digital Transformation, and rapid Global Changes raise more questions about the ability of current social policies to keep pace with these transformations and ensure the sustainability of the achieved results, to align with the Country's Vision for Sustainable Development, where Society is its cornerstone. Moreover, the study problem can be embodied in the form of a question as follows. To what extent does the current UAE Model of Social Sustainability contribute in the achievement of a balance between Economic Growth, Social Cohesion, and Social Justice, and how does this Model manage to confront the challenges of Demographic Diversity, Digital Transformation, and Global Changes, while ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of Social Policies and their connection to Measurable Performance Indicators?

1.2 Research Importance

Research Importance stems from the need to understand the Social Sustainability Role, being one of the main pillars of Sustainable Development in the United Arab Emirates, and is divided into two sections. Theoretical Significance includes the following. Firstly, it highlights the necessity of examining Sustainable Development Dimensions in general, with a specific focus on the Social, due to its exceptional vitality. Secondly, it involves monitoring societal changes that may have positive or negative impacts on Sustainable Development, which can be achieved through specialized studies. Analyzing the responses of various community groups to come up with different perspectives on the State efforts in this field. Practical Significance includes the following. Relying on the type of research that would contribute to drawing plans for Social Sustainability, evaluating and rephrasing the Goals of Initiatives and visions related to Community Development to ensure their alignment with the general visions of the UAE, and providing proposals that would help decision-makers increase their understanding of the nature of society and the diverse needs of its individuals.

1.3 Research Objectives

In this research, we aim to achieve several objectives, the most important of which is to understand the role of Social Sustainability in developing a comprehensive and sustainable development model in the United Arab Emirates. This main objective shall be carried out through several sub-objectives that can be summarized as follows:

1. Analyzing the role of Social Sustainability in support of Sustainable Development in the UAE;
2. Identifying the main challenges that face the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. Reviewing current models and policies related to Social Development;
4. Connecting Community Members to Sustainable Development and being informed of their pivotal role;
5. Proposing a Comprehensive Vision that would lead to building a more inclusive, flexible, and Sustainable Social Development Model; and
6. The Government Contribution as well as the Community Initiatives in the Achievement of Social Justice and Well-Being.

1.4 Research Questions

The current research aims to provide answers to a set of sub-questions that revolve around the following central question: "What is the role of Social Sustainability in the creation of a Comprehensive and Sustainable

Development Model in the United Arab Emirates?” These sub-questions can be listed as follows:

1. What are the challenges that society might face while creating Social Sustainability?
2. How do the Respondents evaluate the efforts exerted to empower and support vulnerable groups?
3. To what extent can we achieve Social Integration and Cohesion within a context of Cultural and Demographic Diversity?
4. Are current social policies capable of keeping up with the Digital Transformations, while aligning with the Sustainability Goals?
5. How do Government & Community Initiatives contribute to achieving Social Justice and Well-Being?
6. What is the level of satisfaction with the quality of life and social services in the UAE?
7. What suggestions can promote Social Sustainability in the UAE?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptualizing Social Sustainability

The issue of social sustainability has become a paramount aspect of sustainable development, aligning with the economic and environmental pillars. Despite the different definitions, the majority of scholars emphasize the importance of focusing on improving human well-being, equity, and social cohesion (Eizenberg & Jabareen, 2017). It includes access to resources in a non-structural manner, cultural empowerment, community empowerment, and inclusion in the decision-making process (Colantonio, 2021). Social sustainability, unlike environmental and economic sustainability, which are regularly determined by quantifiable characteristics and indicators, encompasses quantifiable and measurable dimensions, as well as those that are inaccessible, including trust, belonging, and social justice (Woodcraft, 2020). Social sustainability in the context of the UAE is closely tied to the formation of a cultural identity, national diversity, and the state's strategic development programs. It is clear in the UAE Vision 2031 that human well-being, cohesive communities, and equal opportunities are also defined as primary goals, which are included in other areas of the vision, such as economic growth and environmental preservation (Albrithen, 2023). The UAE's conceptual framework of social sustainability should then be based on the universal values and local cultural, political, and demographic realities.

2.2 Global Trends and Theoretical Frameworks

Some theoretical models are applied globally in interpreting social sustainability. The five-dimensional model created by Eizenberg and Jabareen (2017) draws attention to the parts of equity, safety, urban forms, eco-presumption, and heritage. Similarly, Missimer et al. (2017) present a system-based framework grounded in resilience theory, emphasizing trust and learning as prerequisites for social sustainability. These structures emphasize the importance of participatory governance, social inclusion, and cultural preservation, whose values are of the utmost importance in the multicultural society of the UAE. The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) has also been a popular approach to incorporating social, environmental, and economic elements of development planning globally (Elkington, 2020). The social pillar dimension in this framework focuses on community well-being, fair labor practices, and social equity, which serves as a helpful tool for assessing UAE policies. Nevertheless, researchers (Boström, 2022) argue that social sustainability may be underrepresented in sustainability evaluations, as more diverse indicators and place-based methods are necessary.

2.3 Social Sustainability in the UAE Context

According to empirical studies conducted in the UAE, it is evident that the UAE government has a commendable interest in incorporating social aspects into national development. Ahmed (2012) visited Emirati neighborhoods in Al Ain and found that social infrastructure and cultural identity are crucial in maintaining cohesion. Later research (Almusalami et al., 2024; Albrithen, 2023) reaffirms that the UAE has already made significant progress in addressing issues of social justice, housing equity, education, and access to healthcare. The multicultural population also includes opportunities and challenges that the UAE must encounter. Diversity enhances cultural exchange and innovation, although it necessitates policies that address cultural differences and ensure equal representation (Group of Authors & Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 2021). An illustration of the theme is striking a balance between retaining Emirati traditions and embracing expatriates.

2.4 Drivers of Social Sustainability in the UAE

Several factors reinforce social sustainability in the UAE. All of the social goals are addressed in the documents related to the vision and government policies, such as Vision 2031 or Centennial 2071; however, the most significant topics they cover can be described as cohesion, tolerance, and inclusion (UAE Government, 2023). Indirectly, policies of economic diversification, such as prioritizing the development of knowledge-based industries, enhance social sustainability by providing opportunities within diverse lines of industries (Albayati et al., 2025). CSR has become another important engine. According to Antwi-Boateng and Al Harasi (2025), CSR efforts in the UAE are increasingly aligned with national sustainability goals in education, health, and community development. Additionally, through public-private partnerships, programs aimed at empowering women, equipping young people, and integrating vulnerable groups into the workforce are implemented (Al-Raisi & Al-Othman, 2022). The other essential driver is digital transformation. Studies refer to the potential application of e-governance and smart cities in the future, which may improve service delivery, increase or decrease civic engagement levels, and facilitate inclusive decision-making (Allouzi, 2024). Such online platforms not only automate bureaucratic procedures but also possess administrative means of participatory governance and social innovation.

2.5 Challenges to Social Sustainability in the UAE

Nevertheless, the UAE continues to struggle with fully inclusive and sustainable social development despite significant improvements over the years. Such differences in demographics may result in the creation of segmented social networks, as expatriates and local communities do not always interact across broad areas (Hussein, 2022). Additionally, despite the use of policy frameworks, implementation gaps persist. Another issue the project will face is the lack of community involvement, which often hinders the policy-practice gap, i.e., ambitious social programs. A lack of progress may also manifest as resistance to change, particularly in transitioning to more participatory models of governance. Additionally, challenges such as digital divides resulting from rapid digital transformation, although positive, have raised concerns that they may disproportionately impact older generations and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. It is crucial not to exclude access to digital tools in building a more equitable society, even as e-services become increasingly valued in society (Dafri et al., 2025).

2.6 International Comparisons and Lessons

Comparing the UAE to other countries offers us valuable insights into potential strategies and pitfalls. This is because, for example, Scandinavian countries are performing exceptionally well in social sustainability measures, which can be attributed to their well-developed welfare mechanisms, participatory politics, and robust civic culture (Boström, 2022). However, such models have a high rate of public transfer and taxation that is unlikely to be culturally or economically transferable to the UAE. A better comparison can be made in Singapore. Similarly to the UAE, it has high levels of state-led development and is a small and multicultural country. The case of Singapore and the interrelation of housing policy and social cohesion goals demonstrates that urban planning can serve as a crucial point of departure for nurturing social sustainability (Yuen, 2020). The housing initiatives implemented in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE, have reflected this model, although they have shown a deficiency in specific components of community engagement.

2.7 Role of Education and Capacity Building

Education is a pillar of social sustainability, as it provides people with the competencies, principles, and civic culture necessary for engagement with society. According to Rodriguez-Zurita et al. (2025), it is essential to consider sustainability principles when designing curricula in colleges and universities and to connect educational knowledge with society. Educational reforms in the UAE aim to enhance innovation, critical thinking, and national identity among young people within the educational framework. There are also vocational training and lifelong learning initiatives aimed at increasing social sustainability by reducing unemployment rates and improving social mobility levels (Al-Raisi & Al-Othman, 2022). Gender-inclusive education policies also play a significant role, as the results of broader social development are strongly connected to the empowerment of females (Youssef, 2020).

2.8 Policy Integration and Governance

Good governance is necessary to ensure that social sustainability objectives and aims are aligned with the development strategy. The UAE is characterized by centralized policy-making activity that complements national visions; however, researchers claim that this policy-making process should be more decentralized to support responsiveness at the community level (Albrithen, 2023). The introduction of social sustainability indicators into national performance systems would enable greater specificity in tracking performance (Boström, 2022). This would involve indicators on community involvement rates, confidence in institutions, and access to services with equity. Furthermore, expanding the scope of civil society organizations can be beneficial in fostering collaboration between policy and practice, where the experiences of grassroots people can be incorporated into policy formulation.

2.9 Research Gaps and Future Directions

As can be seen in the literature, there are research gaps. To begin with, there is a lack of longitudinal studies that evaluate the long-term effects of social policies in the UAE. Secondly, economic and environmental sustainability receive considerable attention; however, the social aspect remains under-researched in the context of digital transformation and its implications for social cohesion. Third, conducting a comparative analysis of regions within the UAE and between the UAE and other similar countries may provide valuable insights into best practices relevant to the context. The investigation of the interconnection between social sustainability and climate resilience should also become an issue of future research, as climate-related changes continue to impact the well-being of communities. Additionally, there should be more evidence-based studies to determine the role of the private sector and grassroots organizations in pursuing social sustainability goals.

Overall, the literature emphasizes that social sustainability in the UAE is a dynamic and multifaceted phenomenon, characterized by cultural values, government vision, economic diversification, and demographic diversity. Visionary policies, CSR, and digital transformation have seen the UAE achieve a lot. There are, however, issues related to linking the policy to practice, ensuring equitable inclusion, and developing localized indicators to gauge the processes. Experiences on foreign fronts suggest that incorporating social objectives into housing, education, and governance systems would be more effective.

3. Methodology

This study falls under the category of Descriptive Research, which primarily focuses on addressing phenomena within scientific frameworks through Quantitative Measurement Methods appropriate to the Study Subject. We should also note that a Mixed-Methods Approach has been adopted, including quantitative research techniques. Data from the two types are collected, analyzed, and interpreted within a single study. The purpose behind this combination is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current study topic and obtain thorough results that cover all related aspects, thereby achieving the research objectives. However, the advantage of this approach lies in its ability to gather quantitative data from a large population segment, enabling researchers to measure individuals' awareness and satisfaction with applied policies and the level of Social Cohesion.

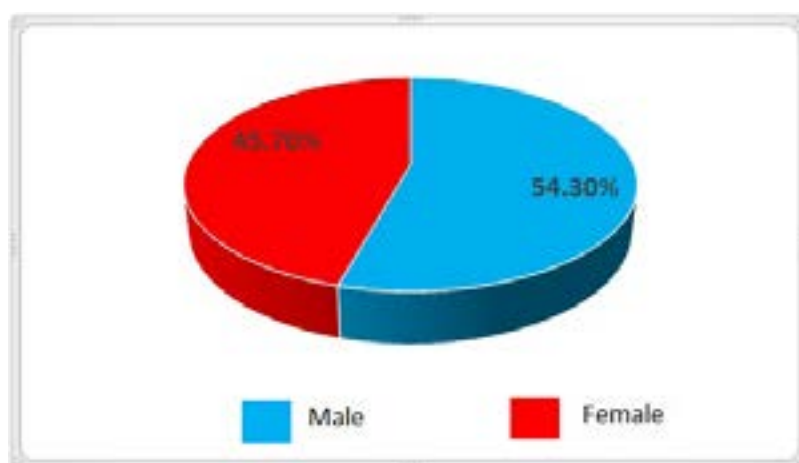
The current research population comprises UAE Residents of all age groups and diverse cultural backgrounds. The questionnaire has been applied to a sample of 300 individuals from various age groups within the Emirati Community. A sample size of 300 individuals has been selected to capture the cultural diversity within the Emirati Society, thus enabling the Researcher to gather extensive data that would help answer the Research Questions and achieve its objectives. The research was conducted during the Holy Month of Ramadan, a period chosen for its collaborative efforts across different community groups, prominent social initiatives, and subsequent events. This timing has enabled the researcher to observe a wide range of diverse community initiatives during the questionnaire period. Data have been collected through the use of a questionnaire, distributed electronically via email. Scope of Research are Spatial Scope of United Arab Emirates and Temporal Scope: From Ramadan to Thu Al-Qi'dah, 1446 AH, Corresponding to the period from March to May 2025 AD.

4. Analysis and Discussion

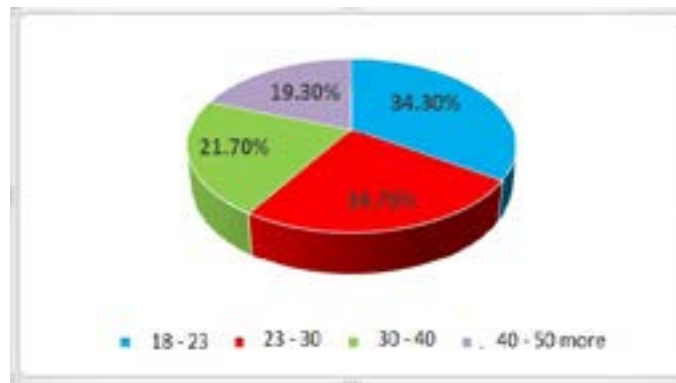
The demographics of the study population in Table 1 and Figure 1 reveal that 54.3 per cent are males, with 45.7 per cent belonging to the female gender. This balanced representation is almost equal, as both male and female views are sufficiently represented, thus there is a gender inclusive investigation of the social sustainability concerns in the UAE. However, the insignificant male majority can affect the prioritisation of some elements, i.e., employment policies or civic participation, but still, the relatively low magnitude reflects that the gender bias in responses is probably insignificant. According to the sustainability standards, the proportion representation of both genders is necessary to signify equal participation, which is also among the UAE's goals of strategic social development.

Variables		Number	Percentage	Ranking
Gender	Male	163	54.3%	01
	Female	137	45.7%	02
Total		300	100%	-
Age	from 18 – less than 23	103	34.3%	01
	from 23 – less than 30	074	24.7%	02
	from 30 – less than 40	065	21.7%	03
	from 40 – 50 and more	058	19.3%	04
Total		300	100%	-
Work	Government	079	26.3%	02
	Private	062	20.7%	03
	Student	103	34.3%	01
	Other	056	18.7%	04
Total		300	100%	-
Academic Qualification	Post-Graduate	081	27%	02
	University	196	65.3%	01
	High School	023	07.7%	03
	Total	300	100%	-
Nationality	Local	198	66%	01
	Resident	102	34%	02
Total		300	100%	-

Table 1: Distribution of the Study Population according to Demographic Variables

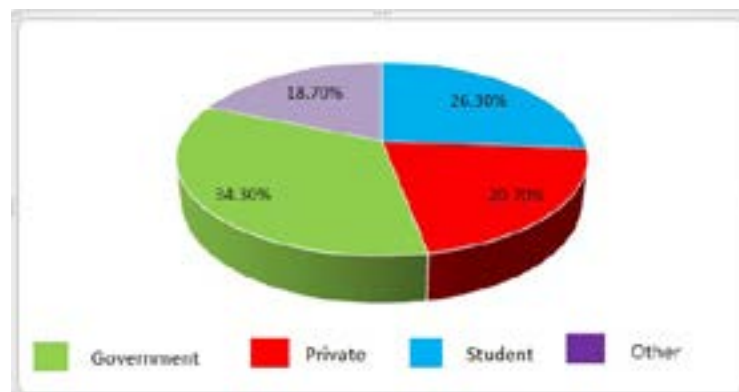


[Figure No. 01: Distribution of the Study Population as per gender]



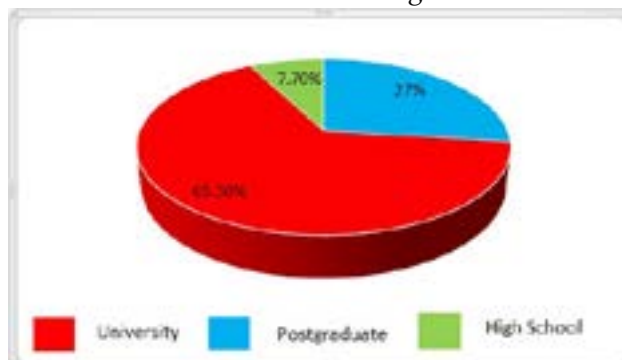
[Figure No. 02: Distribution of the Study Population as per age]

As shown in Figure 2, the majority of respondents were between 18 and 22 years (34.3%), and the second largest group was 23 to 29 years (24.7%). The youths between 30-39 years represent the most with 21.7 per cent participation, and the youngest (above 40 years) represent 19.3 per cent. This age range implies that the population of respondents will be mostly adults of young age, which is important, since with this segment of the population, one can expect a more effortless adjustment to any change, an open attitude to innovation, and readiness to engage in new social projects. Their answers can show proactive thinking about social sustainability, and given the fact that older participants are also engaged, it can be guaranteed that the answers of participants will not miss the perspectives of long-term social engagement.



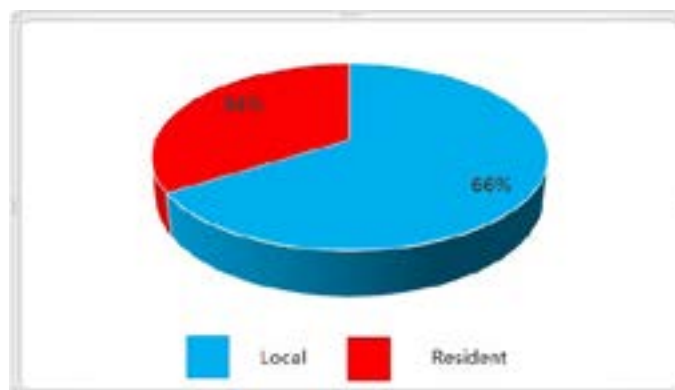
[Figure No. 03: Distribution of the Study Population as per work]

Figure 3 explains that the largest employment in terms of population is the students, numbering 34.3 per cent, followed by the government employees, 26.3 per cent, and the employees under the private industry, 20.7 per cent. There are also other 18.7 per cent comprised of retirees, freelancers, and people with no jobs. This allocation reveals the fact that a considerable portion of the sample are people who are still in school and therefore, the representation of people who are still in the process of being employed is high. The large proportion of government workers is consistent with the UAE economy of development, with a strong chain of command by the government, giving a priority to the involvement of government firms in the policy of facilitating social sustainability initiatives. It is also noted that with private sector representation, the views of participants in the market-based economies are brought on board.



[Figure No. 04: Distribution of the Study Population as per Academic Qualification]

The table in Figure 4 reveals that out of the total sample population, 65.3 per cent of the respondents are university graduates, followed by post-graduates (27 per cent), and 7.7 per cent possess a high school diploma. Such a high degree of education means that the majority of the participants have the skills and knowledge to learn complex sustainability ideas, and thus, they can critique the policies adequately. Policy-wise, such a schooled population can be a great initiator of community-based actions, advocacy, informed decision-making, and sustainability practices.



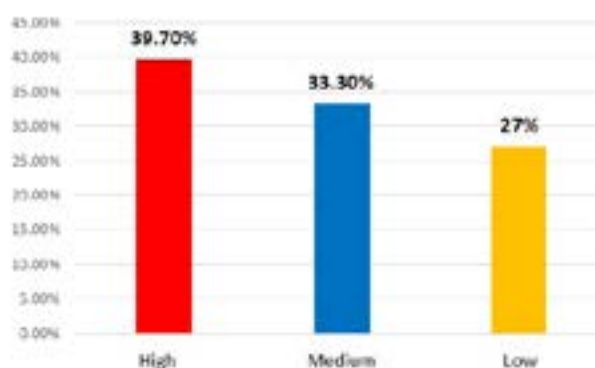
[Figure No. 05: Distribution of the Study Population as per Nationality]

Figure 5 explains that the nationalities of the respondents are 66 per cent who researched Emirati nationals and 34 per cent of the expatriate residents. This diversity will help in the perspectives to be depicted regarding the locals who are directly affected by the national policies, as well as the expatriates, who are affected by this change of social sustainability within the country and affect it as well. Nationally, the findings will reflect the cultural identity, national heritage, and policy priorities grounded in the UAE Vision 2031, and this is given the strong local representation.

Extent of Knowledge of Social Sustainability Initiatives in the UAE	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
High	119	39.7%	01			
Medium	100	33.3%	02	7.220*	02	0.05
Weak	081	27%	03			
Total	300	100%				

[Table No. 02: Distribution of Study Population regarding knowledge of Social Sustainability Initiatives]

Table 2 and Figure 6 show different intensities concerning social sustainability initiative awareness. The level of high knowledge is reported at 39.7 per cent, medium at 33.3 per cent, and low at 27 per cent. This is based on the statistically significant differences ($Ka\ 2 = 7.220$, $p < 0.05$), implying that there is an uneven distribution of awareness among the population. This implies that although a considerable percentage of the community is well informed, a significant percentage has limited knowledge, which can curtail their ability to undertake the sustainability initiatives. To the extent that this gap is bridged through concerted awareness-obtaining efforts, the inclusivity and the reach of the social development activities can be enhanced.

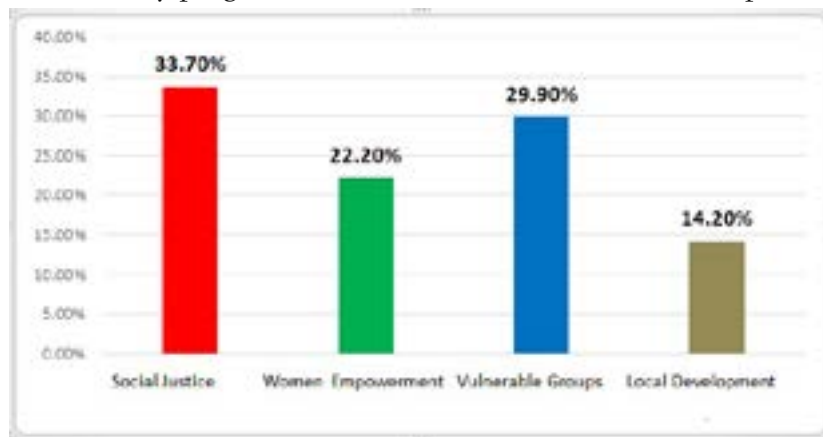


[Figure No. 06: Distribution of Study Population regarding knowledge of Social Sustainability Initiatives]

Aspects covered by Social Sustainability	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Social Justice	123	33.7%	01	**32.534	03	0.01
Women Empowerment	081	22.2%	03			
Care of Vulnerable Groups	109	29.9%	02			
Development of Local Communities	052	14.2%	04			
Total	365	100%	-			

[Table No. 03: Distribution of Study Sample regarding the aspects covered by Social Sustainability in the UAE]

As can be seen in Table 3 and Figure 7, the most important aspect is acknowledged as the concept of social justice (33.7%), followed by care about vulnerable groups (29.9%) and women's empowerment (22.2%). The last one, which is 14.2 %, is the Development of Local Communities. The marked differences ($Ka\ 2 = 32.534$, $p < 0.01$) indicate that although being fair, equal and inclusive are important to respondents, the importance of being based at the grass roots level in the form of community development is not so emphasized. This could be attributed to the fact that the justice and equality programs have enjoyed more visibility than the locally based programs. Hence, the sustainability programs within the communities should be promoted more intensively.

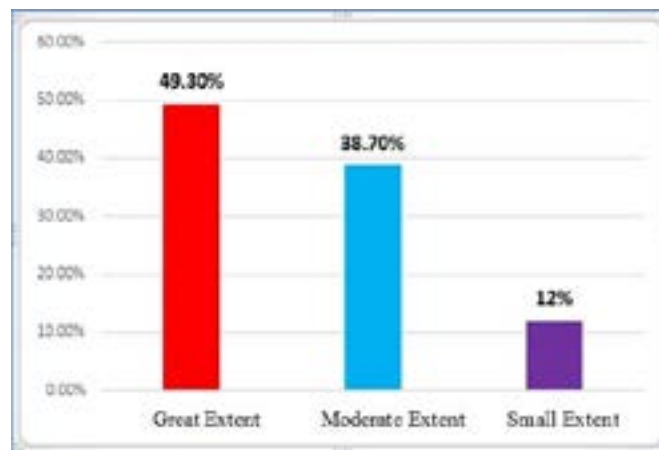


[Figure No. 07: Distribution of Study Sample regarding the aspects covered by social sustainability in the UAE]

Government Policies regarding Social Aspects	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
To a great extent	148	49.3%	01	**66.560	02	0.01
To a moderate extent	116	38.7%	02			
To a small extent	036	12%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 04: Distribution of Study Sample regarding the Government Policies]

Table 4 and Figure 8 explain that government policies deal with the social aspects to a significant extent judged by a great majority of respondents (49.3 percent) followed by a large percent of respondents (38.7 percent) who rate them to be moderate and a small percentage of the respondents (12 per cent) who rate them to be small. The major disparities ($Ka\ 2 = 66.560$, $p < 0.01$) mean that the population as a whole trusts the government and its actions; however, considering the middle scores obtained by a great part of the population, it is possible to conclude that people still can do more to ensure the effectiveness and visibility of the policy. This is in tandem with the UAE being in a position to harmonize social sustainability at all levels of governance.

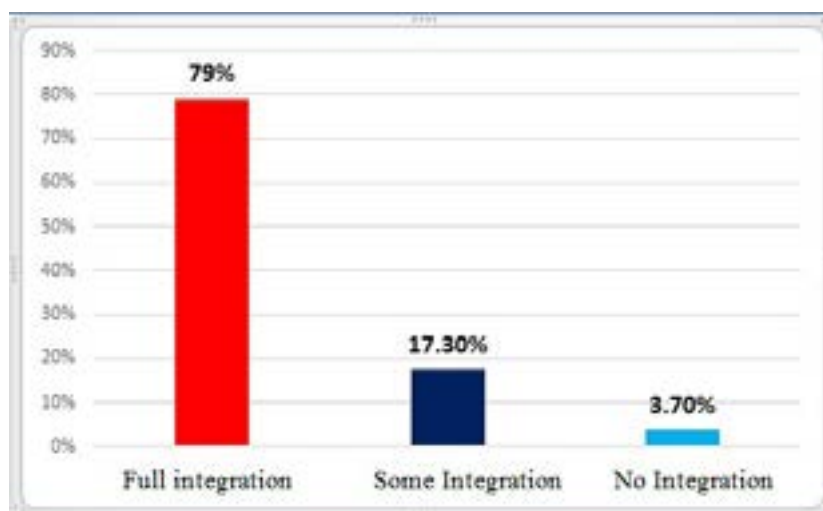


[Figure No. 08: Distribution of the Study Population regarding the Government Policies]

Integration among Institutions	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Yes, there is integration	237	79%	01	**289.940	02	0.01
To some extent	052	17.3%	02			
No, there is no integration	011	03.7%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 05: Distribution of the Study Population regarding integration among institutions]

Table 5 and Figure 9 indicate that 79 per cent of respondents consider that there is robust institutional integration, 17.3 per cent believe that there is some form of the same, and only 3.7 per cent respond that it does not exist. The statistical significance is very high ($Ka\ 2 = 289.940$, $p < 0.01$), which implies a general awareness of cross-sector collaboration, which is the key to successful implementation of comprehensive development strategies. Still, the number of people who say that they are partially integrated or not integrated at all suggests that the effective coordination of all agencies should be stressed, especially governmental agencies and civil society organizations.



[Figure No. 09: Distribution of the Study Population regarding integration among institutions]

Challenges	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Lack of Community Awareness	089	29.7%	02	**40.133	03	0.01
Insufficient Resources	028	9.3%	04			
Gap between Policies & Application	097	32.3%	01			
Resistance to change among individuals	086	28.7%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 06: Distribution of the Study Population regarding the challenges]

The main challenge, as noted in Table 6 and Figure 10, is the Gap between Policies and Application (32.3%), followed by lack of Community Awareness (29.7%) and all the other types of Resistance to change (28.7%). The lowest (9.3 %) is the category of Insufficient Resources. The fact that the significant barriers might not be material resources but rather the implementation and engagement issues is seen in the significant differences ($Ka_2 = 40.133$, $p < 0.01$). This further confirms the necessity of the implementation of sustainability policies and programs through practical and locally driven approaches.

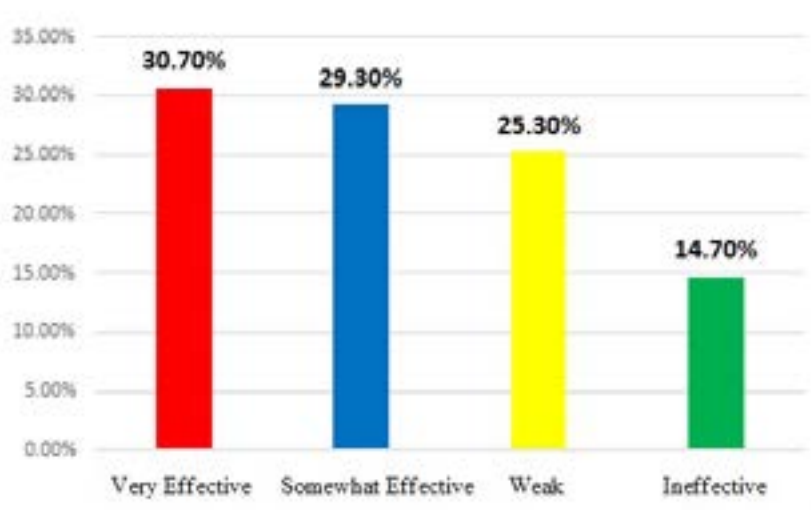


[Figure No. 10: Distribution of the Study Population regarding the challenges]

Role of the Media in Promoting Awareness of Social Sustainability	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Very Effective	092	30.7%	01	**18.933	03	0.01
Somewhat Effective	088	29.3%	02			
Weak	076	25.3%	03			
Ineffective	044	14.7%	04			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 07: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Role of Media]

Table 7 and Figure 11 show that 30.7 per cent of them feel the role played by media is very effective, 29.3 per cent perceive it to be somewhat effective, 25.3 per cent feel it to be weak, and 14.7 per cent feel that it is ineffective. This has been substantial ($Ka_2 = 18.933$, $p < 0.01$) due to the fact that the media has been perceived as a great tool of awareness, but its role is intermittent. This indicates the promise of enhancing the quality, scope, and impact of media campaigns, particularly with respect to the promotion of lesser-known features of social sustainability.

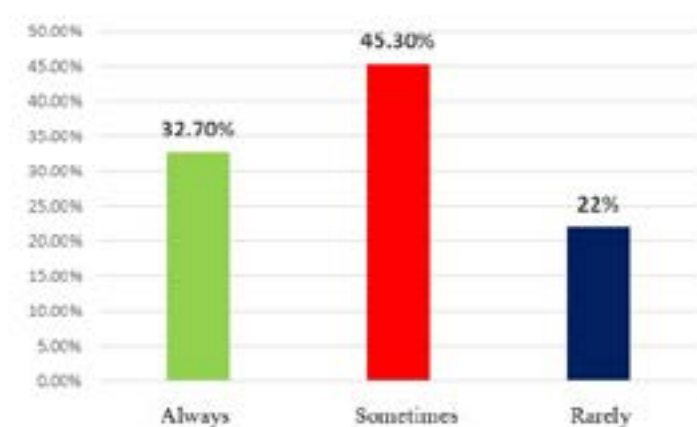


[Figure No. 11: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Role of Media]

Participation in Activities or Initiatives related to Social Sustainability	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Always	098	32.7%	02	**24.560	02	0.01
Sometimes	136	45.3%	01			
Rarely	066	22%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 08: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Participation in Social Activities]

The survey question number 22 reveals that 45.3 per cent and 32.7 per cent of the survey responses sometimes and continuously engage in related activities, and 22 percent rarely engage in related activities, as indicated in Table 8 and Figure 12. This great difference ($Ka\ 2 = 24.560$, $p < 0.01$) indicates relative overall commitment, which means that although engagement is high among the members of the community, it is not yet even within the community population. Making activities more accessible, diverse and inclusive can raise the rates of participation.

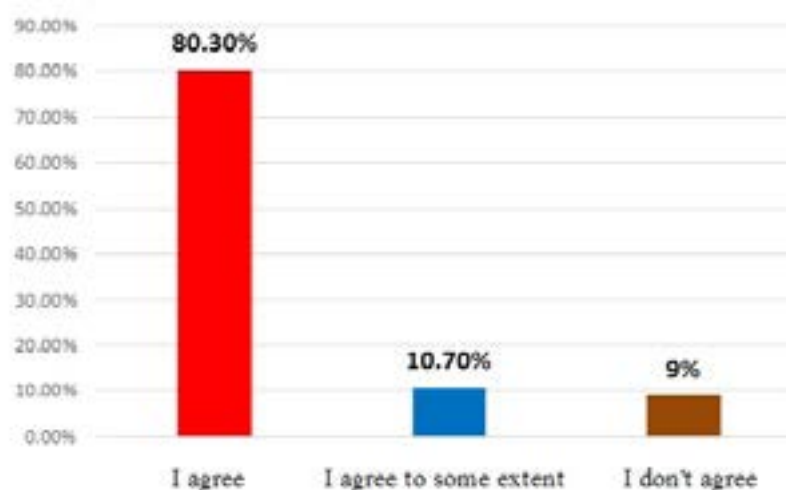


[Figure No. 12: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Participation in Social Activities]

Participation of Social Sustainability in Economic Stability	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
I agree	241	80.3%	01	**298.340	02	0.01
I agree to some extent	032	10.7%	02			
I disagree	027	09%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 09: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Economic Stability]

As shown in Table 9 and Figure 13, 80.3 per cent agree that social sustainability helps in economic stability, 10.7 per cent held an agree to some degree position, and 9 per cent disagreed. The high statistical significance level ($Ka2 = 298.340$, $p < 0.01$) indicates that the majority of the respondents not only expect but also reject the idea of social well-being and economic resilience as different aspects of integrated development in the UAE, which means that they will not accept the awarding of funds to individuals who do not achieve high levels of well-being.

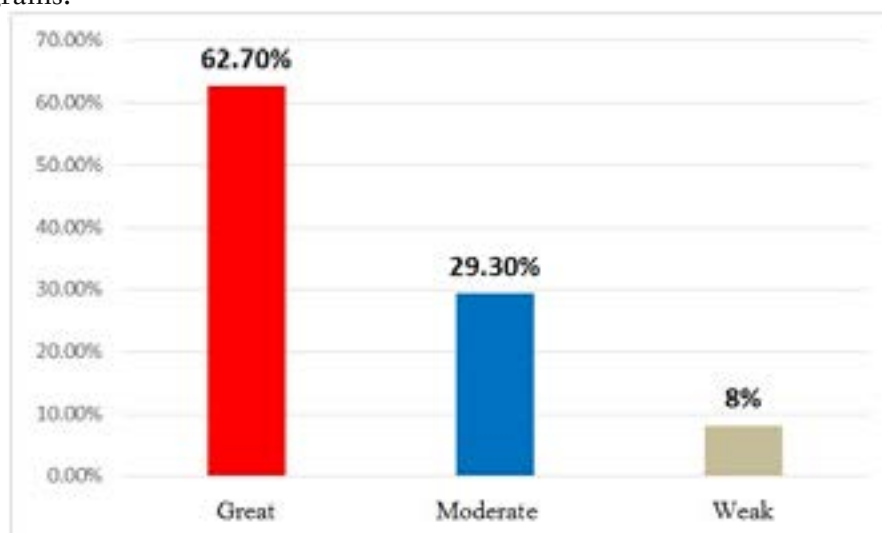


[Figure No. 13: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Economic Stability]

Role of Social Sustainability Programs in the Improvement of Life Quality	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
To a great extent	188	62.7%	01	**136.640	02	0.01
To a moderate extent	088	29.3%	02			
Weak	024	08%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 10: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Social Sustainability Programs]

The results given in Table 10 and Figure 14 illustrate that the social sustainability program enhances life quality to a great extent (62.7 per cent), to a moderate extent (29.3 per cent), and a weak extent (8 per cent). The statistical significance of the variable is high ($Ka\ 2 = 136.640$, $p < 0.01$), which indicates that the overall level of public support for such programs is strong and justifies their value as a central attribute of sustainable development programs.

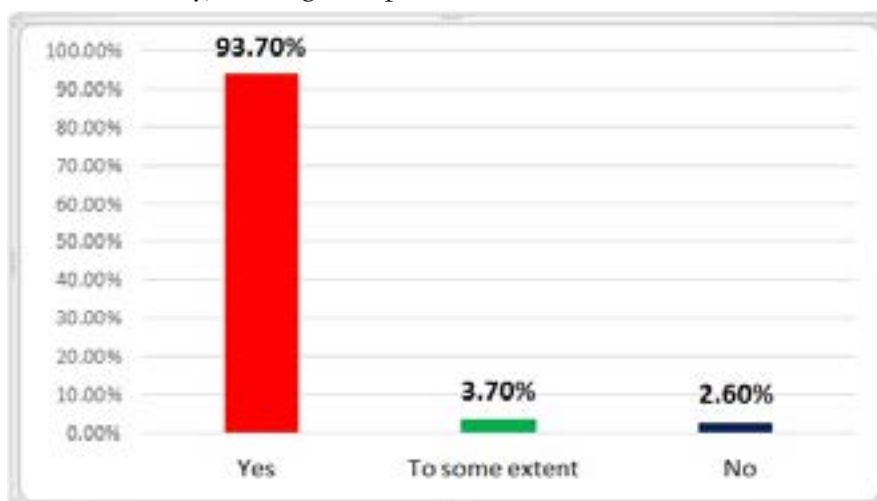


[Figure No. 14: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Social Sustainability Programs]

Relationship between Empowering Vulnerable Groups and Sustainable Development:	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Yes	281	93.7%	01	**491.460	02	0.01
To some extent	011	03.7%	02			
No	008	02.6%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 11: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Empowering Vulnerable Groups]

It has been found that 93.7 per cent agree that empowerment of vulnerable groups contributes to sustainable development, 3.7 per cent stated that it contributes to a larger extent, and only 2.6 per cent disagreed (Table 11, Figure 15). The extreme statistical significance ($Ka\ 2 = 491.460$, $p < 0.01$) confirms that the people are aware of inclusivity as a part of sustainability, no longer dispensable.

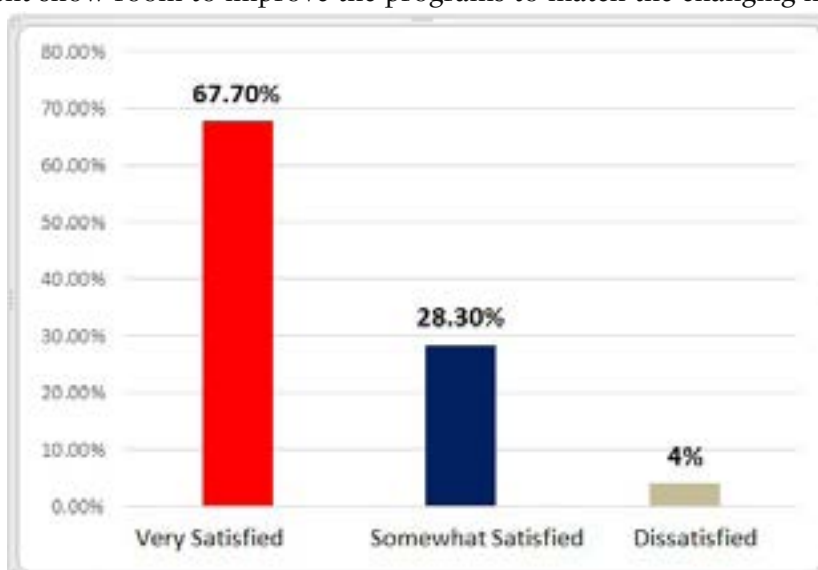


[Figure No. 15: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Empowering Vulnerable Groups]

Satisfaction with the Government's Efforts to Promote Social Cohesion	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Very Satisfied	203	67.7%	01	**185.780	02	0.01
Somewhat Satisfied	085	28.3%	02			
Dissatisfied	012	04%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 12: Distribution of the Study Population regarding satisfaction with the Government's Efforts]

The percentage of people who are very satisfied with the efforts of the government is 67.7, somewhat satisfied is 28.3, and only 4 per cent are dissatisfied, as shown in Table 12 and Figure 16. Considerable dissimilarities ($Ka\ 2 = 185.780$, $p < 0.01$) are signs of a widespread agreement on country initiatives, though half of them who are only moderately content show room to improve the programs to match the changing needs of the community.

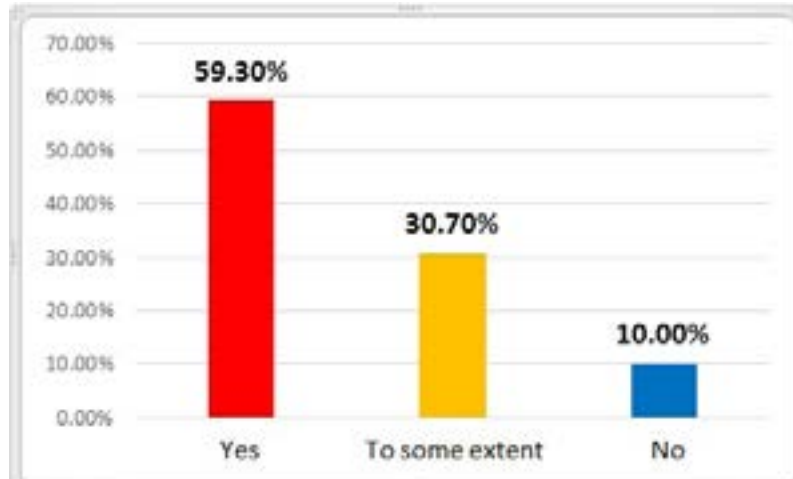


[Figure No. 16: Distribution of the Study Population regarding satisfaction with the Government's Efforts]

Fairness in the Distribution of Social Services among different groups and regions	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Yes	178	59.3%	01	**110.480	02	0.01
To some extent	092	30.7%	02			
No	030	10%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 13: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Fairness of Social Services]

According to Table 13 and Figure 17, there is a belief that 59.3% of the population feels that there is fairness in the distribution of services, 30.7% is fair to a certain degree, and the remaining 10% indicates a belief in a lack of fairness. The vast discrepancy ($Ka\ 2 = 110.480$, $p < 0.01$) indicates overall satisfaction, but also indicates that things should be improved in the perceptions of inequality, specifically the regions and population categories.

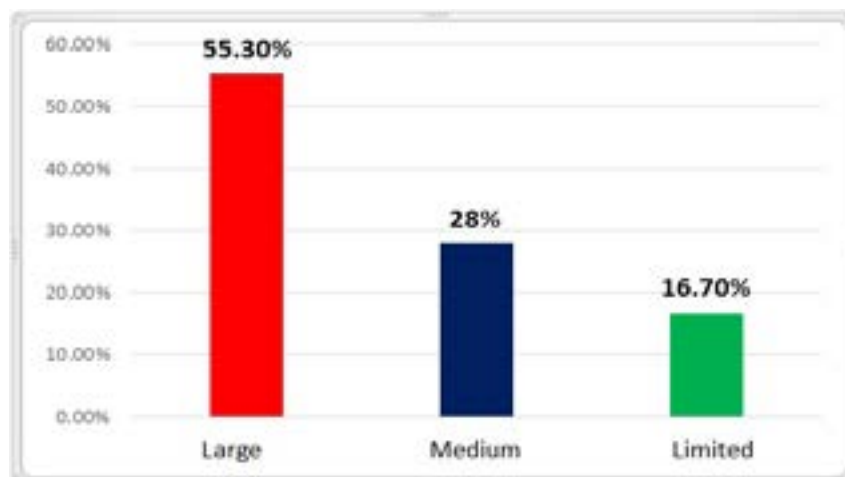


[Figure No. 17: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Fairness of Social Services]

Youth Participation in Social Sustainability Initiatives	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Large	166	55.3%	01	**71.120	02	0.01
Medium	084	28%	02			
Limited	050	16.7%	03			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 14: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Youth Participation]

According to Table 14 and Figure 18, 55.3 per cent think the youth involvement is high, 28 per cent believe that it is medium, and 16.7 per cent think it is small. The enormous dissimilarity ($Ka\ 2 = 71.120$, $p < 0.01$) indicates high levels of participation by the younger generations, and this is essential towards long-term development plans, but there can be more youth inclusion and participation in the leadership arena.

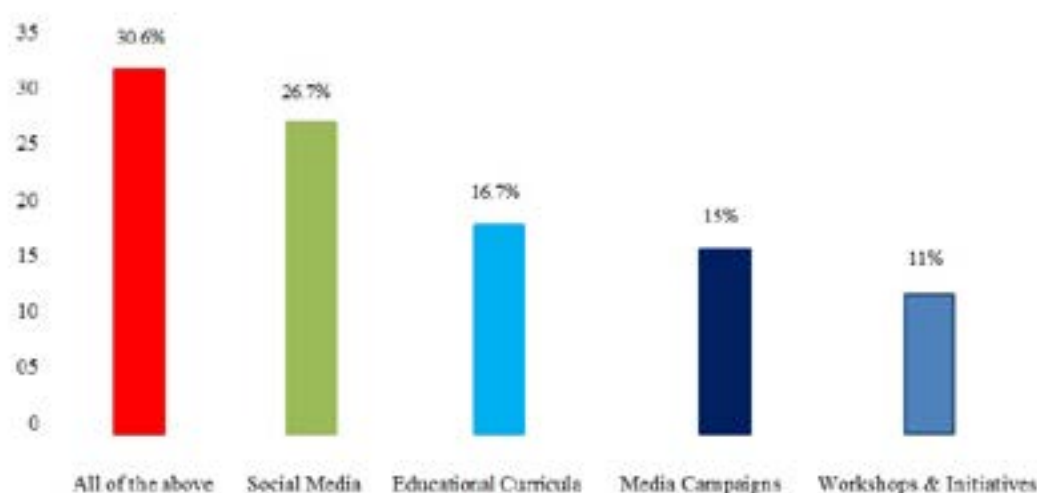


[Figure No. 18: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Youth Participation]

The most effective way to raise community awareness about social sustainability	No.	%	Ranking	Ka2	Freedom Degree	Significance Level
Media Campaigns	45	15%	04	**41.300	04	0.01
Educational Curricula	50	16.7%	03			
Workshops & Initiatives	33	11%	05			
Social Media	80	26.7%	02			
All of the above	92	30.6%	01			
Total	300	100%	-			

[Table No. 15: Epidemiology of the Study Population regarding Community Awareness]

Table 15 and Figure 19 indicate that 30.6 per cent of respondents felt that a combination of all methods was the most effective strategy. In contrast, another 26.7 per cent indicated that the best method was the use of social media, 16.7 per cent said that using educational curricula was the best method, 15 per cent gave the media campaigns strategy, and 11 per cent gave the workshop strategy. These important differences ($Ka\ 2 = 41.300$, $p < 0.01$) indicate that a multi-channel communication strategy is the most promising, and in this case, the means of digital communication are central to reaching a wide range of audiences.



[Figure No. 19: Distribution of the Study Population regarding Community Awareness]

5. Conclusion

In light of the study's findings, which analyzed the opinions of a sample of 300 individuals from the Emirati Society, it has become quite apparent that Social Sustainability is a central pillar in the comprehensive development path adopted by the United Arab Emirates. The Analysis Results have shown a growing awareness among community members regarding the promotion of social justice, strengthening of social cohesion, and empowering various groups within a framework of inclusivity and active participation in public life. The study has also revealed clear efforts exerted by the State to integrate the Social Dimension into its development policies, whether through launching national initiatives or enacting legislation and policies aimed at improving the quality of life and achieving balance among economic, social, and environmental aspects. This indeed reflects a Governmental Commitment to establishing Social Sustainability as a strategic choice that would enhance the continuity of development and support social cohesion. Based on the above, the study recommends maintaining investments in community awareness programs and intensifying efforts to integrate sustainability concepts into educational curricula. Additionally, it requires the development of precise national indicators to measure Social Performance within the context of Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the study encourages the conduct of future research to explore the relationship between Digital Transformation and Community Participation, and to analyze the pivotal roles of women and youth in promoting Social Sustainability. In light of these findings, the study emphasizes that Social Sustainability in the UAE represents a Comprehensive National Model embodying

the State Vision for a more just, cohesive, and inclusive future, in addition to confirming the importance of on-going research and practical efforts to consolidate and activate this model in line with future challenges and transformations, ensuring the sustainability of development and well-being of Emirati Society.

6. Recommendations and Proposals

6.1 Study Recommendations

Study Recommendations include the following:

1. Promoting Community Awareness of Social Sustainability through Media Campaigns and Educational Programs that highlight the importance of Social Values, Justice, and Social Cohesion as fundamental pillars of development;
2. Integrating the concepts of Social Sustainability into Educational Curricula at all levels to establish a culture of social responsibility and positive participation among future generations;
3. Activating the role of community institutions and civil initiatives by implementing support programs for vulnerable groups and strengthening social cohesion among the diverse components of society;
4. Encouragement of partnerships between the Public and Private Sectors to support developmental projects and initiatives focusing on the empowerment of individuals and local communities;
5. Increasing the participation of Citizens and Residents in local decision-making through effective listening mechanisms and community councils that contribute to achieving transparency and social justice;
6. Adopting performance indicators to measure Social Sustainability, incorporating them into national development reports to periodically and transparently evaluate progress achieved.

6.2 Study Proposals

The current study has come up with the following proposals:

1. Conduct of comparative studies on Social Sustainability between the UAE and Gulf or Global Countries;
2. Examining the impact of housing, education, and health policies on the achievement of Social Sustainability;
3. Analyzing the relationship between Digital Transformation and Community Engagement as key drivers of Modern Social Sustainability;
4. Studying the role of women and youth in supporting the pillars of Social Sustainability within the UAE Vision 2031;
5. Developing a UAE-Specific Model for Social Sustainability based on National Identity and Cultural Diversity.

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