

# **Economic Empowerment Of Saudi Women And Its Relationship To Their Psychological Security**

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**By**

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this study was to determine the reality of Saudi women's economic empowerment, the degree of psychological security they experience, and whether there is a relationship between these two factors. The descriptive correlational approach was utilized to examine the reality of Saudi women's economic empowerment and their level of psychological security. An electronic questionnaire was created to test these outcomes. The study population included Saudi women in all of their economic, social, and cultural categories, making the study sample of 667 women who were chosen at random. Appropriate statistical analyses were then carried out to derive the study's findings regarding Saudi women and their level of psychological security.

The research produced the following findings: The degree of psychological security for the Saudi women will increase due to the high reality of their economic empowerment, average level of psychological security, and positive correlation between their economic empowerment and level of psychological security.

Based on these findings, the researcher suggests that programs and other measures be implemented to enhance Saudi women's economic empowerment and increase their sense of psychological security.

**Keywords:** empowerment of women, economic empowerment, Saudi women, psychological security, her psychological security.

## **Introduction**

At the beginning of the 1970s, demands for women's empowerment, eradicating discrimination against them, and calling for their involvement in the management and creation of organizations that contribute to public life—whether economic, social, or political—rose sharply. As a result, the first international conference to address the subject of empowering women took place in the State of Mexico in 1975, and the second conference was conducted in Copenhagen in 1980, and the third conference was held in Nairobi in 1985. The Cairo Document and the Beijing Document, published in 1994 and 1995, respectively, called for the need to promote women's economic rights, including job opportunities, management and independence of their economic resources, and the elimination of

all forms of discrimination between them and their male partners. These calls for the empowerment of women have continued on a global scale (Abu Mandil et al., 2014).

Additionally, because development typically relies on people, its success and sustainability are correlated with how well equipped, qualified, and adaptable people are. And as women are a vital partner in development and an active participant, it is important to acknowledge their valuable contributions to that process (Omar, 2020).

Despite having higher rates of education than men, women participate in the labor market at a much lower rate than men, which has a negative impact on total income per capita. Aguirre et al., cited in Assaf (2018), claim that raising the level of women's participation to be equal to that of men can increase the gross domestic product by a rate ranging from 4–19%.

The removal of two articles from the work system with the intention of empowering women economically, assisting them in doing business without discrimination, and enforcing the regulation of the work environment to protect all groups was one of the most significant achievements that were achieved as part of the National Transformation Program in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). The percentage of Saudi women participating in the work force in 2021 was 32%, according to data from the International Labor Organization (ILO).

People at various ages, cultural, social, and economic levels seek to satisfy their need for psychological stability, which starts with birth and lasts until death. The uneven satisfaction of this desire results in emotions of unease, fear, and anxiety, as well as the deployment of defensive and compensatory mechanisms to calm oneself down. The individual's adaptation to and compatibility with his surroundings, as well as his interactions with himself, his family, and his community, result in personal and psychological balance and equality for him as a result of his insecurities (Radi, 2010). Also, among the basic pillars of a cohesive, homogeneous society are the stability and success of family life, the stability and harmony of the spouses, and their cooperation to achieve a cohesive family (Al-Bunni and Al-Hourani, 2019).

According to Ali (2016), a woman's lack of psychological security and discomfort in her family relationship negatively affect her ability to handle problems and crises. Al-Rashidi (2001) also found that a woman's psychological security, sense of self-confidence, and capacity for achievement are threatened by the conflict of roles among women.

### **Study Problem:**

The activation of women's roles, elevating them to the point where they can make decisions, and increasing the level of female participation in development from 22% to 30% were among the priorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2030's aims. In order to lower the unemployment rate from 11.6% to 7%, the vision also calls for placing women in leadership roles in the upcoming years and creating 400,000 jobs (Vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). where the leadership aimed to improve women's economic participation by eliminating barriers in this area by reviewing some laws, such as prohibiting women from traveling unless with the consent of their Mahram (a family member with whom marriage would be considered permanently unlawful) and allowing them to drive cars. According to Princess Abeer Al-Mandil, having strong female leaders is important for the Saudi family's security and stability (Saudi Press Agency SPA).

There are various aspects and causes for the shift in women's roles, including technological, social, and economic developments; the economic factor is the most important of these since it increases women's self-confidence and enables them to achieve equality and satisfaction (Maqdoud, 2015).

The individual's psychological security is a crucial component of the quality of his life and his capacity to work and produce, and the loss of that security results in a sense of fear, anxiety, and a loss of psychological reassurance and comfort. It also has a devastating impact on the individual's ability to grow, develop, learn, and adapt to change (Fenniman, 2010). A person's soul and heart are loaded with troubles, fears, and suffering, according to Al-Maghamsi's (2007) description.

Despite the advancements women have seen and their status in society, there are still issues with how these new positions are perceived and understood. Despite an increase in awareness and education, many studies, according to Dagher (2004), have shown that the rate of divorce and spinsterhood among women is rising. There, both men and women have a duty. Men and women are equally accountable. Regardless matter the outcome, a woman may disregard her spouse, kids, and family in her quest to fulfill her goal. Along with the man's unfavorable attitude toward marriage, it could also cause her to occasionally give up on the concept of getting married. Their aspirations may be hampered by women and their roles. One Saudi woman in every ten who is 15 or older and is considered to be a spinster has attained the age of spinsterhood, according to the country's 10.07 percent spinsterhood rate (The General Authority for Statistics in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

Women's economic empowerment benefits comprehensive development, moves it forward, and boosts their self-esteem. However, from a psychological and family perspective, it may be a burden because it may make it more difficult for her to fulfill her family responsibilities, which has a negative impact on her psychological security. The findings of studies on how women's economic empowerment affects their family life and children vary, according to Makdoud (2015). While some studies have shown that a woman's success and maturity have positive effects on her husband and children, teaching them cooperation, independence, and self-reliance, other studies have shown that leaving a woman results in depriving her children of the love and tenderness necessary for satisfaction, especially in their early years, and their inability to achieve the necessary educational and psychological care. In order to understand how women's economic empowerment affects their psychological stability and security, which are reflected in their personalities and skills, it was important to conduct research. The following questions were the focus of this study:

1. What does the reality of Saudi women's economic empowerment look like?
2. To what extent are Saudi women psychologically secure?
3. Is there a connection between Saudi women's psychological security and their level of economic empowerment?

## **Study Importance**

### ***Theoretical significance:***

-This study is significant because it focuses on a subject that is important to the Saudi Arabian government's efforts to enhance women's status and give them the roles they deserve in sustainable development strategies.

-It helps to show the connection between a factor that concerns a sizable portion of society—namely, women's psychological and familial stability—and the degree to which that connection is related to the way in which they play a role in economic empowerment.

-Its significance is also derived from the value of psychological safety for family life, the results of normal people's behavior, and the development of a stable, cohesive community.

-Along with the significance of women's changing positions and their transition from a passive to active role in society, their desire of self-realization and active, informed engagement in society, as well as the advancement of the economic wheel

-According to the researchers, this study fills a void in the literature regarding the relationship between women's economic empowerment and psychological security.

***Practical importance:***

- This study is beneficial to those who are interested in and concerned about women and family issues, as well as the critical role of the dimensions of women's empowerment on their security and quality of life.
- This study lays the groundwork for future research into the effects of women's economic empowerment on the personal, psychological, and family levels.

## **Study Objectives**

This study set out to accomplish the following goals: determining the degree to which Saudi women are actually economically empowered; assessing their level of psychological security; and determining whether there is a relationship between these two variables.

## **Study Limits**

Objective limitations: the study's scope is set by its examination of Saudi women's actual economic empowerment and how it relates to their psychological safety.

Human limitations: Other nationalities of women residing in the Kingdom are not included in the study, which is determined by the study community of Saudi women.

Time limitations: The research is only allowed to last one month and will only be used during the second semester of the academic year 21/22.

## **Study Terminologies**

***Women's Empowerment:***

"Providing the greatest chances for women to access resources and control in society, meaning that empowerment is the actual participation of women in making decisions and policies pertaining to their lives," is the definition of women's empowerment, according to the UN (United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2000, 12).

It is: "eliminating all forms of prejudice against women by providing them with tools to develop their capacities and acquire independence" (Qandil, 2004).

It is defined procedurally as the level the respondent attained by responding to the study's scale of economic empowerment.

***Psychological Security***

Psychological security is the individual's positive feeling about his life, his efficiency in managing his environment, his ability to achieve personal goals in a way that suits his abilities, his sense of the meaning and purpose of life, and his positive attitude towards himself and his acceptance of it. (Rubin, Weiss & Coll, 2013, 420)

It is "an internal psychological condition in which the person experiences comfort and confidence in both himself and others" (Mazloun, 2014, 279).

It is defined procedurally as the level the respondent attained by responding to the study's scale of psychological security.

## **Theoretical framework and previous studies**

### ***Theoretical framework***

First: the economic empowerment of women

Women are not seen as participating fairly in sustainable development without the multifaceted process of women's empowerment. These aspects, according to Thabit (2004), are as follows:

1. **Knowledge:** One aspect of cognition is the knowledge of the circumstances and elements that lead to women's reliance in life. A critical analysis of their experiences is done in accordance with this dimension, and behavioral patterns that lead to dependence are seen.
2. **Politics:** The concept behind this dimension is that it encompasses women's capacity to organize, evaluate, and advance social change. on the premise that women's social participation will help them catch up to men in terms of consciousness and culture, resulting in the desired societal change.
3. **Economy:** Economic participation is a potential for women in this dimension, which is number three. According to this dimension, financial dependency is the primary cause of women's dependence on men, which she needs in order to earn an independent income.
4. **Health:** In order for a woman to be able to take care of her family and children, it is crucial to ensure that she has access to health services and health insurance that are appropriate for her role as a woman, the head of a family, and an employee.
5. **The social dimension,** which takes into account the significance of changing customs, traditions, and the derogatory views of women as well as eliminating all forms of discrimination against them and men, includes women's possession of the knowledge and skills that aid in their education and their positive participation in society.
6. **The functional dimension:** This aspect takes into account the fact that women can perform their duties, enhance their working circumstances, and hold leadership positions.

### ***Theories explaining the economic empowerment of women:***

#### ***1- Role theory:***

As per Perlman, a person's "role" is the set of behaviors that are adopted as a result of the position they occupy or the duties they carry out in their relationships with others. so that the following variables influence these patterns:

1. The person's needs and motivations, both conscious and unconscious.
2. His opinions and impressions of the duties and expectations owed to him by others, which he gets from the practices, traditions, and shared standards associated with the roles and positions he holds.
3. The degree of agreement and disagreement between an individual's perceptions and expectations and those of others.

Additionally, each function that a person plays has components that are dictated by cultural and societal norms (Othman, 2003). Because of the aforementioned, women act out their social roles in accordance with the norms and conventions set out by society.

#### ***2- Social Action Theory:***

In accordance with this theory, interpersonal interactions that already exist are founded on social action. As a result, action serves as the basis for understanding social phenomena because it is intentional and the product of human contact with others. such that the behavior is revealed and has been colored by social rules and standards (the format of social action). The role of women does not stray from these controls in their social contacts or through their connections with their economic empowerment. She does this in an effort to conform her behavior and activity to the social action pattern that results from restrictions and standards that are acceptable for the demands of this function.

The scientist Parsons, one of the most significant forerunners of this theory, defined four roles of the social action system, namely:

- 1- Adaptation: in the sense of the actor's ability to deal with the new situation and avoid obstacles.
- 2- Achieving the goal: by strengthening and intensifying the energy of the actor to reach the goal.
3. Integration: Through this function, cultural motives and elements are consistent and attracted.
- 4- Prevention: This function seeks to protect the actor from deviating from the values of society (Omar, 1997).

### ***Second: psychological security***

Components of psychological security:

Psychological security consists of the following components:

1. Self-reassurance: The individual's sense of reassurance, self-calmness, stability, and safety in the absence of fear of the group to which he belongs.
2. Confidence in oneself and others: that the individual trusts in his capabilities, judgments, and those around him (Zahran, 2005).

Factors affecting psychological security:

There are many factors affecting psychological security, according to Al-Sayed (2011), the most important of which are:

- Belief in God Almighty and commitment to the teachings of Islam: Belief in God secures the individual from feelings of fear and anxiety.
  - Methods of socialization: If these methods are correct and based on acceptance, respect, and tolerance, the psychological security of the individual will grow and be strengthened.
  - The existence of social support: when the individual feels the support and support of those around him, it becomes easier for him to bear and overcome difficulties and tribulations, and his feeling of security is enhanced.
- 3- Flexibility in thought: Within the boundaries of social and religious norms and values, there is a clear correlation between flexibility of thought and a sense of security.
  - 4-Physical health: A person's perception of physical strength and their capacity to endure and respond to circumstances with forbearance, tenacity, and resistance are positively correlated with their sense of security.
  - 5- Mental health: Having a good mental health is one of the things that determines how secure a person feels, which in turn affects how compatible they are with society, how confident they are in themselves, and how creative and innovative they are.
  - 6- The economic factor: the individual's material ability to satisfy his needs, motives, and the necessities of life, which enhances his sense of security in the present and the future.
  - 7- Social and family stability: An individual's social and family stability enhances his sense of security.

## **Explanatory theories of psychological security**

### ***1-Freud's theory:***

The importance of human needs and their satisfaction in the development of a person's personality is emphasized by Freud's theory. The person's personal development will halt if his basic needs—for food, water, warmth, safety, and love—are not met. Without fixation, the person develops normally (Al-Ashwal, 1999).

### ***2-Erikson's theory:***

Erikson's theory is founded on the idea that a person's basic requirements are matched by his or her psychological security, love, and confidence in those around him. When these needs are met, the

person feels secure in later phases of development. the first one (belief vs. disbelief) and the sixth one (friendliness vs. isolation); In the first two years of life, if a person's need for love and security is not met, his confidence in other people and the outside world will be shaken, which will cause him to withdraw from them just as his failure to develop close relationships with people in his twenties will cause him to do the same later on (Al-Dahry, 2019).

### ***3-Maslow's theory:***

Maslow's theory of needs is based on a hierarchical system in which needs are graded according to priority and strength. When an individual can satisfy his or her basic needs, higher needs emerge and take precedence in satisfaction, with the individual's need for security coming in second to physiological needs (Badr, 2012).

### ***Literature Review:***

The previous studies that dealt with the subject of the study were divided into two categories:

- Economic empowerment of Saudi women.
- Psychological security.

They are arranged ascending from oldest to newest

### ***The first category: Studies of the economic empowerment of Saudi women: First:***

A study conducted by (Assaf, 2018) under the title "Assessing the impact of trade openness on women's competitiveness in the labor market in light of Vision 2030."

With a comparison between the Kingdom and the other Gulf nations, the study aims to add to the body of knowledge by examining the relationship between trade openness and the shift in work options for Saudi women in light of Vision 2030. The comparative technique was employed to accomplish the study's goals (which covered the period 1991–2017). One of the most notable findings was that women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's service sector had a distinctive and advantageous impact, placing the country top among the other Gulf nations. This effect is ongoing and is associated with the indices of commercial openness in the Kingdom.

### ***Second:***

The study conducted by Al-Nafaie (2019) entitled "The Role of Saudi Women in Achieving the Kingdom's Vision 2030 Challenges and Ways to face them"

The study's objectives were to determine the contribution of Saudi women to the achievement of the vision, to pinpoint the biggest obstacles they encounter, and to set restrictions on their participation in the execution of the vision's programs. The descriptive survey method was employed together with the creation of certain ideas to deal with them. One of the most striking findings was that the majority of Saudi women, who are mostly highly educated women, watched the vision plan through a variety of modern media. The majority of women think that women can effectively contribute to the three axes of the vision. (a successful economy, a dynamic society, and an aspirational nation).

### ***Third:***

The study conducted by Omar, 2020, entitled "The Economic Empowerment of Saudi Women: Dimensions and Obstacles."

Due to the fact that this study is theoretical and falls under the category of desk studies, which are primarily based on the sociological literature that is available to researchers, and because it was conducted in Saudi Arabia, where these dimensions were represented in a study of principles, mechanisms, levels, indicators, and obstacles, One of the most prominent results of the study was that

the economic empowerment of Saudi women is based on developing their personal capabilities and achieving the principles of justice and legal equality. According to the study, one of the most significant barriers to women's economic empowerment is the presence of some societal legacies that reduce women's participation in the wheel of development, a scarcity of training courses offered to working women to increase their efficiency, and finally, a lack of economic awareness among women.

***Fourth:***

A study conducted by Sharabi (2020) entitled "The Professional Mobility of Saudi Women between the Restrictions of Reality and the Horizons of Vision 2030"

In addition to preparing a proposed vision to broaden the scope of the vision in order to achieve women's professional mobility, the study sought to identify the limitations placed on Saudi women's professional mobility prior to Vision 2030, to recognize the significance of professional mobility in achieving diversity in professional opportunities, and to learn about the most significant barriers to professional mobility. The study adopted a descriptive-analytical approach. With regard to the sources of information, the researcher obtained them from scientific books, periodicals, seminars, and reports, in addition to some scientific theses and previous studies. One of the most noticeable outcomes was that many restrictions were imposed on Saudi women, preventing them from obtaining their right to the labor market, as well as their right to training and rehabilitation, and the vision appeared to limit and eliminate them. The vision aimed to elevate the status of women by giving them an actual appreciation for them, as their contribution to the labor market increased from 22% to 30%.

***Fifth:***

A study conducted by Al-Khalifa (2020) titled "The Role of Saudi Women in Economic and Social Development in Light of the Kingdom's Vision 2030."

According to what was said in the vision clauses, the study attempted to emphasize the role of Saudi women in achieving progress in the economic and social aspects. Clarifying the idea of economic and social progress and emphasizing the contribution of women to it through quantitative analysis is another goal of the study. The reality of Saudi women in 2017 was examined using the analytical-descriptive methodology. The study's findings indicated that if women were given ongoing support and empowerment, more opportunities for education and training, and inclusion in development plans, the percentage of employment in the private sector would increase to 10%, and the unemployment rate would drop from 12.3% to 9% by the year 2020.

***The second category: Studies of Psychological security:***

***First:***

a study conducted by Al-Zahrani (2016) entitled "Psychological Security of Saudi Women and its Relationship to Achievement Motivation."

The study sample included 227 Saudi women from various socioeconomic backgrounds. According to the study's findings, there were statistically significant differences in the sample members' levels of psychological security: (level of education, age, work, marriage age, number of family members, monthly income). A function that prioritized those with the highest levels of education and the oldest ages, followed by working women, people with longer marriages, people with smaller families, and, finally, people with high earnings. Monthly income comes in last, followed by age.

***Second:***

A study conducted by Al-Qamhani (2017) entitled "Psychological Security and its Reflection on the Determinants of Women's Functional Performance in the Work Environment."

The study aimed to try to find the relationship between women's psychological security and the determinants of job performance according to their work environment, researching the impact of



research variables on psychological security. The sample members prioritize the working woman and her job performance in the workplace, as well as understanding the most important dimensions of psychological security. The analytical-descriptive approach was used. The study sample was chosen in an intentional way from Saudi working women from different social, economic, and educational levels who are concerned with various job fields. 800 women from the various western area regions made up the sample (Jeddah, Makkah, and Taif). The findings indicated a favorable association between the psychological security dimensions and the job performance determinants components. The parameters of psychological security and the aspects of the internal working environment are also directly and positively correlated. The factors that affect job performance are correlated with the internal workplace environment. One of the study's most significant findings is that educational background has the greatest influence on psychological security, accounting for 77.3% of the variance, whereas monthly income came in last, having the least impact on psychological security.

***Third:***

The study conducted by Al-Ashi (2017) entitled "Planning the financial resource of Saudi women and its relationship to psychological security."

The study sought to determine whether Saudi women's financial planning and certain social and economic factors, such as marital status, age, educational attainment, occupation, total household income, and family size, were related. The study also sought to ascertain whether there are statistically significant differences in psychological security between working and non-working women, as well as whether psychological security and planning are related. It also sought to investigate the relationship between psychological security and prior social and economic variables. relatives' resources 582 Saudi women from Jeddah Governorate, representing a range of economic and social statuses, made up the study sample, which was chosen using an intentional process and was based on the researcher's analytical-descriptive methodology. The results showed that there is a correlation between financial resource planning and the two variables (woman's age and total family income), that there is a correlation between psychological security and the two variables (women's educational level and total income), and that there is a strong and statistically significant correlation between family financial resource planning and psychological security in general.

***Fourth:***

The study conducted by Nofal et al. (2018), entitled "Family crisis management and its relationship to psychological security among a sample of female heads of household,"

The study aimed to determine the differences between rural and urban female heads of household, working and non-working heads of families, taking into account the nature of housing, family size, age of the head of the family, the length of the marriage, and the educational level of the parents. It also aimed to reveal the relationship between family crisis management and psychological security in all its dimensions (psychological reassurance, social stability, and self-realization). The study sample, which used the analytical-descriptive methodology, included 270 female heads of home. The Menoufia city and the villages that are linked with it were randomly selected to represent various social, economic, and educational levels. The number of children in the household, the age of the parents, the age of the marriage, and the monthly income do not all correlate with psychological security.

***Fifth:***

The study of Al-Bunni and Al-Hourani (2019), entitled "Emirati women's work and its impact on family stability."

It sought to establish a link between women's employment and its consequences on the stability of the family. 120 Emirati women were selected as a sample for the survey (60). sixty non-working women, one working lady. The study's findings demonstrated that a woman's relationship with her spouse and children is unaffected by her employment or leaving the house.

***Sixth:***

The study conducted by Al-Halabi (2020), entitled "The empowerment of Saudi women in the light of Vision 2030 and its reflection on family stability."

It aimed to refine its expertise and develop its capabilities to achieve stability, raise productivity, and highlight its position in society. The study used a descriptive-analytical approach. The study was conducted on a sample of 150 women from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's western region, with varying social, economic, and scientific levels. One of the most prominent results of the study was that there was a statistically significant difference between the average scores of the sample in women's empowerment and family stability according to the variables of the study, the existence of a correlation between women's empowerment and family stability, and the difference in the percentage of participation of factors affecting women's empowerment and family stability.

***Feedback***

Previous studies dealt with women's economic empowerment and psychological security. The following is a summary of these studies according to the following aspects:

***First: In terms of objectives:***

The majority of studies on economic empowerment focused on Vision 2030 and its interest in change and transformation in women's roles. It also looked at the challenges and obstacles facing their active participation in development, the indicators by which women's economic empowerment is measured, the importance of professional mobility in creating and diversifying job opportunities for them, and the quantitative analysis of the extent of women's contribution to economic and social development. Women's psychological security drew the attention of studies, some of which sought to identify the relationship between psychological security and achievement motivation, while others were concerned with its relationship to the determinants of job performance in women's work environments; other studies sought to investigate the relationship between psychological security and social and economic variables, determining whether there are statistically significant differences. on family stability, while other studies aimed at raising the level of awareness of women psychologically, socially, and economically so that they could protect themselves and become a major player in achieving development.

***Second In terms of the methodology used:***

The studies used, in their entirety, the descriptive approach and varied between the descriptive, analytical, comparative, survey and correlation approaches.

***Position of study in relation to earlier studies***

The two researchers were unable to discover a study that studied the association between women's economic empowerment and their psychological security in Saudi society, therefore this study stood out for its investigation of the topic.

## Study design and methodology

The descriptive correlational approach, one of the scientific research methodologies, was utilized in the study to arrive at conclusions regarding the phenomena or issues under study, allowing for their future planning and illuminating the relationships between them.

### *Study population:*

The study population consisted of Saudi women of different economic, social, and cultural levels.

### *The study sample:*

The research sample was selected in a simple random way from the reality of the female community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the study sample was 667 Saudi women.

### *Study tool*

An electronic questionnaire was prepared by referring to the scale of (Al-Huthali, 2020; Al-Dulaimi and Al-Yasiri, 2012), where some paragraphs were selected from the two scales and modified to suit the objectives of the study, so that the questionnaire was divided into two parts, the first to measure the reality of the economic empowerment of Saudi women, and the second to measure psychological security, and each of them consisted of 18 paragraphs with a total of 32 paragraphs and a five-point scale from 1–5.

### *The validity:*

The questionnaire's constructive validity was examined in order to confirm the validity of the survey. The correlation coefficients of the paragraph with the total score of the economic empowerment axis ranged between 0.58 and 0.90, and the correlation coefficients of the paragraph ranged with the degree of empowerment. These correlation coefficients were extracted from the paragraph and applied to an exploratory sample outside the study sample, consisting of 30 respondents. The psychological security axis' overall score varied from 0.56 to 0.85. (Table 1).

**Table (1)** *Correlation coefficients between the paragraph and the total score of the axis to which it belongs*

Economic empowerment		Psychological security	
Paragraph number	Correlation coefficient	Paragraph number	Correlation coefficient
1	.62**	1	.62**
2	.58**	2	.85**
3	.87**	3	.72**
4	.90**	4	.83**
5	.58**	5	.64**
6	.81**	6	.77**
7	.71**	7	.69**
8	.85**	8	.82**
9	.84**	9	.74**
10	.82**	10	.63**
11	.78**	11	.76**
12	.76**	12	.72**
13	.69**	13	.76**
14	.80**	14	.63**
15	.88**	15	.56**
16	.66**	16	.64**
17	.78**	17	.69**
18	.78**	18	.74**

\* Statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05).

\*\* Statistically significant at the level of significance (0.01).

### *Stability of the study tool:*

The test-retest method, which involved giving the questionnaire to an exploratory group of thirty respondents outside the study sample and giving it to them again two weeks later, was used to determine the stability of the questionnaire. At each point, the Pearson correlation coefficient between the group members' estimates was calculated. Using the internal consistency approach and the Cronbach alpha equation, Table 2 also calculates the stability coefficient.

**Table (2)** *Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient and return stability of the categories*

category	Recurring stability	internal consistency
Economic empowerment	0.85	0.80
Psychological security	0.87	0.84

## **Study results and discussion**

### *The first question: What is the reality of the economic empowerment of Saudi women?*

To answer this question, the arithmetic means and standard deviations of the reality of economic empowerment of Saudi women were extracted, and the table below shows this.

**Table (3)** *Arithmetic means and standard deviations of the reality of economic empowerment of Saudi women arranged in descending order according to the arithmetic means*

Rank	Number	Paragraphs	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Level
1	13	Economic empowerment of Saudi women raises their level of self-confidence	4.48	.781	High
2	16	The economic empowerment of Saudi women has received the attention and care of the wise leadership	4.47	.758	High
3	4	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the empowerment of the role of Saudi women in small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurship in society	4.37	.696	High
4	1	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the emergence of new talents for Saudi women that are compatible with the requirements of the renewed labor market	4.35	.639	High
5	9	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the commitment of Saudi women to the vision and mission of the Kingdom and their role in supporting Saudi society	4.33	.788	High
5	18	One of the main pillars of empowering Saudi women economically is expanding economic opportunities for them and facilitating their ways	4.33	.791	High
7	5	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is empowering the creative role of women and developing their talents	4.31	.957	High
7	17	Saudi women have achieved qualitative successes in various fields, scientifically and economically	4.31	.826	High

9	14	One of the requirements for the economic empowerment of Saudi women is their possession of the skills of dialogue, discussion and persuasion	4.29	.925	High
10	15	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the ability for women to prove their presence in the labor market	4.27	.822	High
11	10	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is empowering the energies of Saudi women to serve the Saudi society and support the wheel of sustainable economic development	4.26	.639	High
11	12	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is that women have the ability to solve the problems they face economically and take responsibility as a result	4.26	.719	High
13	7	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the investment of Saudi women of their	4.24	.761	High
		energies and capabilities to advance the Saudi economy			
14	3	Among the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the development of the female role to participate in the desired economic development	4.22	.871	High
15	2	Among the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the representation of women in senior leadership and the empowerment of progressive advancement for women in the global and regional community	4.17	.825	High
15	6	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the empowerment of women's interaction in various social, economic and political fields	4.17	.947	High
17	11	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is the active participation of women in decision-making circles	4.10	.836	High
18	8	One of the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is Saudi women's realization of the importance of social responsibility and its strategic dimensions	4.04	.898	High
		Economic empowerment	4.28	.631	High

Table (3) shows that the arithmetic averages ranged from 4.04 to 4.48, where Paragraph No. 13, which states "Economic empowerment of Saudi women raises the level of self-confidence," ranked first with an arithmetic mean of 4.48, while Paragraph No. 8, which reads "Among the manifestations of the economic empowerment of Saudi women is Saudi women's realization of the importance of social responsibility and its strategic dimensions," ranked last with an arithmetic average of 4.04. The arithmetic mean of the reality of the economic and social empowerment of Saudi women as a whole was 4.28.

This is in line with research by Assaf (2018), Al-Nafaie (2019), and Sharabi (2020) and Al-Khalifa (2020), as well as to a lesser extent, and may be explained by the consideration given by the wise leadership to women's empowerment, which was apparent through Vision 2030.

One of the most notable outcomes of the National Transformation Program, which included the state's objective to increase Saudi women's economic empowerment and their active participation in the workforce, was an increase in the level of women's participation in the workforce to the year 2021. It also highlighted women's talents and increased their level of self-confidence by involving them in small and medium development projects and by extending investment opportunities.

***The second question: What is the level of psychological security for Saudi women?***

To answer this question, the arithmetic means and standard deviations of the level of psychological security of Saudi women were extracted, and the table below shows this.

**Table (4)** *Arithmetic means and standard deviations for the level of psychological security of Saudi women arranged in descending order according to the arithmetic means*

Rank	Number	Paragraphs	Arithmetic Mean	Standard Deviation	Level
1	11	I feel safe and protected being with my family	4.25	1.038	High
2	17	I can adapt to all circumstances	3.89	1.004	High
3	16	I feel renewed energy	3.83	1.109	High
4	10	I feel appreciated by others	3.78	1.127	High
5	18	I don't mind others ignoring me	3.63	1.066	Medium
6	12	Others promise me different from them	2.78	1.093	Medium
7	3	I feel afraid of the unknown	2.40	1.217	Medium
8	15	My feelings are easily hurt	2.40	1.136	Medium
9	5	I get embarrassed and sensitive often	2.34	1.132	Medium
10	8	I find it difficult to express my feelings	2.31	1.107	Low
11	13	I feel vulnerable to attempts at exploitation	2.25	1.030	Low
12	6	I feel sorry and pity for myself	2.18	1.210	Low
13	1	I feel dangerous and threatened in this world	2.16	1.125	Low
14	9	I feel that I have little luck in life	2.09	1.118	Low
15	4	I feel very suspicious	2.07	1.077	Low
16	7	I see my spirits are dropping fast	2.07	.974	Low
17	2	I am unable to feel optimistic	2.02	1.035	Low
18	14	I feel alone in this world	1.84	1.065	Low
		Psychological security	2.68	.597	Medium

Table (4) shows that the arithmetic averages ranged between 1.84 and 4.25, where Paragraph No. 11, which states, "I feel safe and protected in my presence among my family," ranked first with an arithmetic average of 4.25, while Paragraph No. 11 came in at 14. It reads, "I feel alone in this world," ranked last with an average of 1.84. The arithmetic mean of the level of psychological security of Saudi women as a whole was 2.68.

The findings indicate that Saudi women have an average level of psychological security, which may be explained by the fact that the woman feels at home with her family as a result of Saudi society's cohesiveness, that others value her, and that she feels reenergized as a result of the roles she has recently enjoyed in light of Vision 2030 and her ongoing capacity to adapt to the situation. Saudi

women may have experienced an average level of psychological security as a result of all of this, which may be explained by the fact that Saudi women are new to all of these assigned roles and have less experience with economic empowerment than women in neighboring Arab nations.

Working women's role conflict may also have an impact on the study's findings. Al-Rashidi's study (2001) confirmed that role conflict among women is a threat to their psychological security.

***The third question: Is there a statistically significant correlation at the level ( $0.05 \geq \alpha$ ) between the economic empowerment of Saudi women and the level of psychological security for them?***

To answer this question, the Pearson correlation coefficient was extracted between the economic and social empowerment of Saudi women and the level of psychological security for them. Table (5) shows this.

**Table (5)** *Pearson correlation coefficient, the relationship between the economic empowerment of Saudi women and their level of psychological security*

		Psychological security
Economic empowerment	Correlation coefficient	.087*
	Statistical significance	.025
	Number	667

\* Statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05).

\*\* Statistically significant at the level of significance (0.01).

Table (5) shows that there is a statistically significant positive relationship between the economic and social empowerment of Saudi women and the level of psychological security. This result is partially consistent with the results of the studies of (Al-Zahrani, 2016; Al-Qamhani, 2017; Al-Ashi, 2017; Nofal, 2018; Al-Bunni & Al-Hourani, 2019; Al-Halabi, 2020); This may be explained by the fact that empowering women economically and raising their status in society raises their level of self-esteem and self-confidence. which raises the level of psychological security.

It might also be contended that giving women more financial power makes them feel more powerful, enables them to meet their needs, and makes it simpler for them to achieve their goals as well as those of their families. The degree of psychological security increases as a result. Arab women in general and Saudi women in particular were economically dependent on men, which caused many women to suffer psychologically, financially, and socially. Her economic empowerment completely allayed these anxieties, which may have had the biggest influence on this outcome. Her loss of a man meant she couldn't meet the bare necessities for her life and the lives of her family.

## Recommendations:

Based on the results of the study, the researcher recommends the following:

- Growing interest for enhancing the reality of women's economic empowerment in order to improve and progress further.
- Considering ideas and means to improve Saudi women's psychological security.

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