

An Anthropological Perspective: Interaction with Extended Kinship in Saudi Arabia in the 21st Century

Authors : Alaa Alshehri

Abstract : It has been thought that kinship in modernization is moving in a linear Western model; however, the literature shows that different cultures adjust to modernization by preserving its norms and values. Saudi Arabia is a young country experiencing rapid expansion from oil discovery until economic diversification. By conducting 10 interviews from different provinces of the country from the age of 27-47, these anthropological studies suggest that Saudi people adapted to modernization and globalization through unique interactions with extended families by asking the participants to give detailed descriptions of their interactions with their kinship. With almost all the participants noticing the changes within the last few years, this interaction is rooted in their religious beliefs, which they stressed, even with the free choice of life opportunities. They tried to find a balance between individuality and collectivity and connect the gap between the older and younger generations. This study adds to the anthropological debate on kinship definition and ties in modernization and provides a perspective on the social reality of one of the major Middle Eastern countries, Saudi Arabia.

Keywords : collectivity, economic diversification, kinship, modernization theory, individuality

Conference Title : ICASS 2023 : International Conference on Anthropological and Sociological Sciences

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : October 16-17, 2023