# A PROPOSAL FOR THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN PROMOTING COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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**ABSTRACT**: *The present study is an attempt to identify the role of the family in promoting community awareness of Sustainable Development goals. The study sample covered several books and websites as well as UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The descriptive method was utilized to achieve the study objectives. The study concluded that the Sustainable Development goals are considered a developmental project that seeks to improve the life of peoples, but the entire goals include unfamiliar terms and issues that in turn break down the family and community; therefore, the community awareness of these issues should be raised through the educational institutions, and the family role played through the three balanced dimensions of the development: social, economic and environmental dimensions. The study recommended that the developmental plans should not be unified without identifying the real needs of the countries, whose requirements must be taken into account. The study confirmed the significant role played by Neighborhood Centers in promoting the community awareness of Sustainable Development goals.*

**KEYWORDS**: the family role, goals, sustainable development, community awareness, community.

## INTRODUCTION

In circumstances of global competitiveness to upgrade all sectors and the current changes regarding economic clusters, political alliances, or globalization and its consequences, the concept of development is a key to empower countries economically, politically, socially, and militarily. They seek to achieve internal sustainable development to dominate their internal resources and to prevent any external intervention. Therefore, the developmental sector is a basic one to achieve a decent life to people and maintain autonomy to have the right of making their own decisions.

Because of the importance of sustainable development in the stability of societies, Boshniver (2013) stresses the importance of the role played by the civil society as a key partner with the government and a contributor to accomplish development and assume responsibility. Civil society's institutions play a prominent role in creating a balance between the environmental and economic systems to maintain natural resources.

Therefore, reformulating civil society's goals has a strong relation to sustainable development. Kamel (2008) reports that such relations, which are based on crystallizing a new philosophy of civil work mainly depend on our vision to rehabilitate man, update community, and exploit nature according to new concepts and visions. It also adopts a civil and purposeful vision framed

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by an accurate plan of the bases and aims, guided by clear developmental goals, and controlled by a deep knowledge of the human and his various problems. It also works on a philosophy based on the state's support and political determination in motivating the organized teamwork and consolidating its initiatives, activities, and projects by concluding agreements and partnerships to serve the sustainable development.

Reyadh (2009) concludes that development does not only aim to increase production but also to empower people to broaden the scope of choices. Accordingly, development is not only a process of developing capabilities to maximize benefit or economic welfare, but also to raise the cultural, social, and economic level of the individual. Poras (2009) concludes that family is the most significant civil society's institutions that take part in promoting the social, cultural, and economic level of the individual and accomplishes sustainable development. It plays an important role in educating generations that are greatly aware of the concepts of the environment and its dangers on society through the good moral of the parent by interest in hygiene and sound use of all resources to reduce or limit the effect of the wrong utilization of the environment. It aims to include a useful member who is aware of the environmental dangers and the moral.

The societal awareness limited to the theoretical and verbal aspects causes the decline of application to upbringing and socialization methods of learning, far from applied and practical practices. Accordingly, communities characterized by stability and shortage of keeping pace with changes in conditions and events.

Because of the importance of sustainable development in satisfying the needs of present and future communities, promoting of community awareness is the responsibility of all education institutions, the most significant is the family which is the basis of change in communities and traditions for a better future.

**Statement of the problem**
The current study seeks to answer the following questions:
1-      What are the concept, dimensions, and goals of sustainable development?
2-      What are the concept, dimensions, and goals of community awareness?
3-      What is the role of the family in promoting community awareness of sustainable development's goals?

**Objectives**
The study is an attempt to:
1-      Identify the concept, dimensions, and goals of development.
2-      Identify the concept, dimensions, and goals of community awareness.
3-      Investigate the role of the family in promoting community awareness of sustainable development's goals.

**Significance**
The current study is significant because:
1-      It illustrates the importance of family as an educational institution in which the individual is aware of the concepts, values, and behaviors forming the features of personality.

2-      It reveals the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development's goals as good planning is based on future indicators and expectations.

3-      More than one party can benefit from the study, including:

-       Educational policy makers

-       Parents and educators

-       Researchers in the family in particular and in educational institutions, in general.

-       Holding training courses in family counseling according to the goals of sustainable development that are consistent with Islam.

## METHODOLOGY

The descriptive approach was utilized in this study as it helps adopt accurate facts on the current circumstances, dedicate important relations, and interpret data. It provides the educator with scientific and quick information that help develop plans to the next programs and provides information for higher levels of scientific understanding. Daleen (1985) argues that this approach is sometimes the only way to study social situations and aspects of the human behavior. This approach suits the current study that seeks to describe the nature of sustainable development goals 2030 and define their present and future social, economic, and environmental indicators to provide a future vision of the family role in promoting community awareness of such goals. Accordingly, the author created the proposal, defining its key aspects (economic, social, and environmental), and setting scientific indicators of each domain. Then, the proposal was presented to a number of educationalists to check the appropriateness of domains and indicators with the developmental goals (economic, social, and environmental).

### Study Limitations

1-      Sustainable Development goals 2030

2-      Focusing on the family role in promoting community awareness of sustainable development goals, focusing on its three aspects (social, economic, and environmental).

### Conceptual Framework

*The concept, dimensions, and goals of sustainable development:*

*A: Development*: is providing a productive work and a better life quality for all nations. It requires large growth of productivity, income, and development of the human capacity (Reyadh, 2009). Accordingly, it becomes an interrelated, cohesive, and active process on handling community questions to all events expressing the human and society in all economic, social, cultural, and environmental aspects (Adly, http://www.aoye.org/desert.doc).

*B:Sustainable Development*:  Since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945; cooperation between countries in solving global problems of the human, cultural, social, and economic aspects; consolidating the respect for human rights; improvement of the human welfare, changing the global understanding of development over the past two years made agreement on sustainable development is the development that promotes progress and economic opportunities, raises social welfare and protects the environment. It should provide better means to improve human life everywhere.

A new and inspiring global campaign was adopted, represented in the table of sustainable development goals for 2030. UN recommended other governmental and non-governmental organizations and all competent parties to use the concept of sustainable development in all programs that aim to prevent poverty and improve the standard of living in all developed and developing countries.Sustainable development is a socio-economic development that is mainly based on the human being to promote the objectives to meet the needs to a total positive change with the aim of improving the general level of economic, social, and developmental changes. It deals with the human or social aspects of development as the dominant factor and looks for human powers as a key condition of accomplishing sustainable development.

**Aspects of sustainable development**
According to Elsaeed (2012), there are three key aspects for indicators of sustainable development:
A. The economic aspect: aims to accomplish a high level of welfare to the human being by increasing the share of essential goods and services and providing key production factors, basically organization, scientific knowledge, and capital.
B. The environmental aspect: aims to protect the safety of the ecological systems, handling natural resources, and using them for the human benefit.
C. The social aspect covers the human modes; and the individual, group, and institutional relations and their participation as cooperative efforts. This aspect's factors are represented in the effectiveness of achieving partnership in civil society organizations where community goals and responsibilities meet according to the scope of rights and freedoms calling for justice and equality without discrimination;  and empowerment that means enlightening individuals and groups, whether men or women, of the necessity of solidarity and contribution to building a unified community by using their energies and efforts to create a flourishing future that they dream of for future generations; the focus of the current study.

**Sustainable development goals for 2030 (UN website):**
 International Labour Organization welcomes the new agenda of sustainable development that some countries of the UN agreed on from September 25-27, 2015. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the development plan vision after 2015, entitled "the Road to Dignity by 2030" aiming to have a roadmap to achieve live with dignity over the next 15 years, covering (17) goals and (169) indicators, as follows:

However, it is important to illustrate that such announced goals imply grave indicators that may demolish the family structure. Consequently, communities are destroyed due to the issues raised that violate religion and nature. Accordingly, community awareness of such issues should be accomplished by the institutions of education and activate family role by educating children of what was introduced in the document. Such objectives are not comprehensive but they are separable and can be accepted in accordance with law and rejected if not.

**Community awareness: concept and aspects**

Awareness: is the direct realization of the self and what goes on around. It is the basis of all knowledge. It also refers to understanding and sound perception. This means understanding the self and others when interacting with them to fulfill the needs and achieve benefits by being aware of the relation between the self, others, and environment in the various situations (Elorefy, 1995).

*Community awareness*: It is the collection of individuals' interaction in a certain social interaction, where their perceptions and feelings are met in real cognitive forms, beliefs, perceptions, attitudes, and collective behavioral patterns that reflect such social reality, including changes: human, population, environmental, economic, professional, household, cultural, historic, and organizational...etc. It changes in the frame of the interchangeable effect relation of this reality (Elhamazany, 1998).

*Levels of community awareness*:

I. Direct daily awareness that functionalists are much keen on. It is the expression of direct daily life experience and human daily needs. It is characterized with spontaneity and automation. It is related to the psychological and social features of the humans. It reflects a social existence with features and components.

II. The theoretical and ideological level that reflects a certain level of existence is a hierarchal perception of the society, its relations, and contradictions.

The ideological relation and community awareness level are accomplished according to the entity, conceptions, and ideas. While community awareness is based on spontaneity and automation, ideology occurs according to a high level of thinking and science that comes directly after direct awareness.

**Scientific awareness developed by production forces and used to serve productive and ideological benefits is the outcome of past accumulations and scientific contact with other communities, either borrowing, following, or adaptation**.

*Dimensions of community awareness:* A. Individual awareness that expresses an individual with certain circumstances and reflects a certain individual existence.
B. Collective awareness which is a perception of the community and nature. Community awareness reflects the total social existence, with its topographic relief and contradictions. It refers to a perception of the key community issues (Abdulmoatey, 1938).
Community awareness is not just the individual's ability to describe social reality with texts and statements because of being fluent. It is a real translation of the contemporary social reality that contributes to defining, solving, and further developing of the problem.

**The role of the family in promoting community awareness of sustainable development's goals**.
If community awareness can't be achieved without practical practices in the institutions of education, it is important to consider family as the basis of the community which illustrates its connection and disconnection, and its strength and weakness. It assists the community's various groups through the primary social relations among parents, sisters, brothers, and relatives. It also formulates the individual's attitudes, tendencies, behaviors, and conscience.
Accordingly, it should fulfill all goals of education; religious, moral, cultural, social and secular. Thus, kids will be properly directed. Islam enhances this matter through urging parents to advise and guide their kids as a means of edification. Consequently, members of the community will be well-mannered and capable of developing and improving it because the development of communities is based on proper education.
The family raises kids and instructs them that they were created for Allah's worship, which is based on their lifestyle on the earth according to His instructions, takes over community awareness.
Consequently, a proposal of the family role in promoting community awareness of sustainable development's goals through its awareness role to the members on the three aspects of sustainable development can be provided, as follows:
1-      *The economic aspect:*
-       Dissemination of consumption culture where children are brought up on possession according to the necessities, needs, and priorities of the community.
-       Illustrating that consumption is a means not a goal, in itself; a Muslim consumes to live, and he lives to worship Allah and to inhabit the earth.
-       Protecting the public and private belongings, starting from the family in the daily practices of personal belongings.
-       Discussing with children on economic terms, illustrating their meanings and future impacts, e.g. (loans, investment, payment facilities, and money laundering).

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- Moderation in spending by illustrating the concepts of penny-pinching and wasting. Hence, a family could have financial abundance that motivates investment and the family contributes to upgrading national economy.
- Having dialogues with children to discuss the viability and credibility of goods advertisements they seek to obtain.
- Illustrating the thinking of revolutionists who oppose the ruling authorities and that the economic factor is the most effective one in the overthrow of power where there is a desire to control the resources and security of the country.
- Saving a budget, e.g. incentives to the achievers and inventors of children.
- Educating children of the possibility of job opportunities that save a sound lifestyle and contributes to the internal and external progress of the country.
- Illustrating the dangers of rural life migration as they vacate the villages causing the decrease of local income that meets the country's needs of agricultural and animal products; the country is obliged to import, affecting its economy.
- Training children on unselfishness that a child feels other needy in his/her country or others.
- Encouraging local industries saves the national capital to develop and upgrade the country.
- Motivating children to work to achieve good for them and their communities. limit unemployment, and forming productive families.

*2-     The social aspect:*
- Teaching children on the principles of Islam from the basis of doctrines and foundations of feqh that are required for daily life.
- Teaching children about the behavioral patterns, values, and attitudes to fulfill their community role by imitating parents' role.
- Forming the children's conscience is the result of the response to certain situations or behaviors accompanied by reward and sanction, so the individual acquires the customs, traditions, standards, and values of the community.
- Building the individual's personality by education on the sub-cultures that define the person's position in the community.
- Educating children roles that are appropriate to gender, as defined by Islamic law.
- Maintaining national identity by maintaining Islamic teachings and inherited traditions and customs.
- Fighting aggression by achieving equality among children to be good citizens internally and externally.
- The importance of censorship and security role, so that children are not subject to delinquency or committing crimes because of deprivation and the shortage of job opportunities to get money.
- Implanting the values of peace by educating children on the dangers of social media as some studies proved that there is a direct relation between media violence and the high rate of crime (Thabet, 1997); the danger of the accumulative impact is worse with the increase of its negative use.
- Motivating children to live peacefully in their communities and skip rural and ethnic conflicts that affect the community's progress, development, and progress.

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- Practice rights and duties, knowing the rights of parents, children duties towards them, and the rights of foreign employees of servants, educators, and drivers.

- Guiding children professionally, where their abilities are discovered through the group and family activities; some children have leader qualities while others have professional ones.

- Securing a scientific and research environment starting from the family that motivates children to invest all mental and creative capacity and uses their achievements for the benefit of their countries, so they may not have brain drain to environments that provide such capabilities.

- Illustrating the dangers of internal and external immigration affecting social relations, causing weak family relations.

- Implanting the spirit of family belonging to achieve nationalism and global civilization.

- Educating children on religious belonging because the Islamic culture did not last for long centuries in most countries without sticking to Islam and was weakened when Muslims abandon it.

- Implanting the love of Arabic among children and not to separate future generations from their language and Islamic heritage because of it is a foundation of the Islamic personality, the language of the Holy Qur'an, a means of transferring ideas, and a cause of creating strong Islamic community.

- Upgrading counseling via the daily practices with children, allowing them freedom of expression, and discussing problems they may have.

- Implanting social solidarity among children; protecting weak groups of children, elderly, orphans, and widows; and providing competence to every individual of the community.

- Educating and protecting children against physical abuse or punishment in any form.

*3-      The environmental aspect:*

- Educating the basic principles of public hygiene and ways of protecting themselves to live a sound and healthy life by watching education programs (e.g. be smart in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

- Guiding children to benefit from their free time and manage their power by motivating them to practice sports and the various hobbies as having long and unused free time may cause damage to the surrounding environment. This can be achieved by offering grounds and activities halls in a safe environment by coordinating with the associations in localities.

- Continuous education of the genetic diseases in the family so that early intervention is available by the regular medical investigation.

- Educating children that the most significant manifestation of nationalism is environmental behaviors.

- Protecting natural resources by creating balance to be used, whether agricultural lands, forests, or water.

- Illustrating that performing such practices and applications by the Muslim family regarding the economic, social, and environmental aspects helps accomplish the goals of sustainable development (that are compatible with Islam) and empowerment to inhabit the earth.

## RESULTS

The following results could be concluded:

1-      Ostensibly, goals of sustainable development are a developmental project that seeks to improve people's life according to periodic developmental plans, but they imply some grave terms to disrupt the family structure and destroy the community.

2-      Community awareness of such issues is the first way of correction that could be accomplished via the educational institutions, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

3-      There is a great role for the family, as an educational institution, that faces a set of challenges and requires assuming the responsibility of educating individuals of the environment and their pros and cons.

4-       Assuming the family role of illustrating the goals of sustainable development through the three aspects of development; social, economic, and environmental and creating balance among them.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends:

1-      Unifying the developmental plans without considering the real needs of countries hinders community progress, so countries needs should be considered.

2-      Asking for the help of localities centers, where association grows that have a developmental and developed experience to participate in disseminating community awareness of sustainable development goals.

3-      The right of future generations in accomplishing sustainable development requires greater cooperation and experience exchange in coordination with the various educational institutions.

4-      The need of accomplishing real sustainable development where the three (i.e. economic, social, and environmental) aspects are fulfilled requires meeting current generation's needs without prejudice to the future ones.

**Suggestions**

The following suggestions have been made made:

1. The role of the family in promoting community awareness of sustainable development's goals 2030.

2. Conducting future studies of the changes and updates faced by the family and predicting their impacts and results.

3. Conducting comparative results of the family role in promoting community awareness in the Saudi community and other communities in the advanced countries.

4. The role of information media in promoting community awareness of the social goals of sustainable development.

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