



PRINCE MUHAMMAD BIN SALMAN'S REFORM POLICY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS FREEDOM IN SAUDI ARABIA 2017-2022

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Abstract

The increased protection of women's rights in Saudi Arabia cannot be separated from the role of Prince Muhammad Bin Salman as crown prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Saudi women's freedom is a form of social reform that has been planned since the reign of King Abdullah, which was then realized during the leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud through the Arab Vision 2030 initiated by Prince Muhammad Bin Salman. Arab Vision 2030 has succeeded in realizing Saudi women's demands for gender equality, where this equality can be seen by women being allowed to drive and having a personal driving license without having to ask their guardian for permission. Apart from that, Saudi women are also allowed to participate and be involved in politics, are also allowed to choose jobs and build their own businesses, and women are also allowed to obtain education up to university with the freedom to choose their major. In this research, the author uses conceptual theory, namely political system theory and the need for legitimacy, which the author will use in explaining the content and substance of the research. The author uses an explanatory method with a qualitative research type. This research aims to discuss the results of Prince Muhammad bin Salman's thoughts on his social reform through the ambitions of the Saudi Vision 2030. The results of the research see developments in the expanding role of women in Saudi through by the Muhammad bin Salman role's. Various current policies of the Saudi Kingdom fokus to modernization and protecting women's rights. Muhammad bin Salman made reformation policy and increasingly the opportunities, roles, workspace for women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: *Saudi Arabia, Saudi Vision 2030, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, Gender Equality, Social Reform.*

Abstrak

Meningkatnya perlindungan hak-hak perempuan di Arab Saudi tidak lepas dari peran Pangeran Muhammad Bin Salman sebagai putra mahkota Kerajaan Arab Saudi. Kebebasan perempuan Saudi merupakan salah satu bentuk reformasi sosial yang telah direncanakan sejak masa pemerintahan Raja Abdullah, yang kemudian diwujudkan pada masa kepemimpinan Raja Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud melalui Visi Arab 2030 yang digagas oleh Pangeran Muhammad Bin Salman. Visi Arab 2030 berhasil

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mewujudkan tuntutan perempuan Saudi akan kesetaraan gender, dimana kesetaraan tersebut terlihat dengan diperbolehkannya perempuan mengemudi dan memiliki surat izin mengemudi pribadi tanpa harus meminta izin kepada walinya. Selain itu, perempuan Saudi juga diperbolehkan berpartisipasi dan terlibat dalam politik, juga diperbolehkan memilih pekerjaan dan membangun usaha sendiri, serta perempuan juga diperbolehkan memperoleh pendidikan hingga universitas dengan kebebasan memilih jurusan. Dalam penelitian ini penulis menggunakan teori konseptual yaitu teori sistem politik dan kebutuhan legitimasi yang akan penulis gunakan dalam menjelaskan isi dan substansi penelitian. Penulis menggunakan metode eksplanatori dengan jenis penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membahas mengenai hasil pemikiran Pangeran Muhammad bin Salman mengenai reformasi sosialnya melalui ambisi Visi Saudi 2030. Hasil penelitian melihat perkembangan perluasan peran perempuan di Saudi melalui peran Muhammad bin Salman. Berbagai kebijakan Kerajaan Saudi saat ini fokus pada modernisasi dan perlindungan hak-hak perempuan. Muhammad bin Salman melakukan reformasi kebijakan dan memperbanyak peluang, peran, ruang kerja bagi perempuan di Kerajaan Arab Saudi.

Kata Kunci: Arab Saudi, Visi Arab 2030, Pangeran Muhammad Bin Salman, Kesetaraan Gender, Reformasi Sosial.

Introduction

Today, the world is faced with various transformations of complex issues that require each country to adapt quickly. Among the big things that can affect current conditions are the economy and the balance of nature. Among the countries highlighted to adapt policies is the Saudi Arabian Government. As is well known, Saudi Arabia is among the countries with the largest oil reserves in the world. With the current world situation, Saudi Arabia is seen carrying out various policy transformations to adapt to various global situations that continue to develop rapidly. The world is currently starting to transform using the concept of a green economy, this is a big challenge for Saudi Arabia which is very dependent on oil sources. Since 1938, oil in Saudi contributed 70% of state revenue, but in 2015 there was a decrease in activity and oil prices that continued to fall. This caused Saudi Arabia to experience a deficit of up to 100 billion US\$ (Singkat & Hidriyah, 2009).

Various complexities of global issues provide encouragement for the Saudi kingdom to continue to exist in the global arena in responding to global challenges. This situation encourages Saudi to learn to adapt for various important components needed to build make Saudi stronger. The Saudi Vision 2030 policy is a phenomenal big movement for the Saudi kingdom in the early 2nd century, this policy was influenced by Prime Minister Prince Muhammad bin Salman's when he start leading The Saudi Kingdom with big ambition. The Saudi Vision 2030 blueprint resolution is a new major, a representation in the policy of accelerating Saudi to be a leading the world. The speech was delivered by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in the first introduction in Saudi Vision 2030 is clearly conveyed his support for this big project for, he wants make his country known as a pioneer and example for the world that is successful in excellence, all lines, and working together with actors (others) to achieve its goals (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2016)





Muhammad bin Salman expressed his happiness in presenting the vision of Saudi Arabia in his ambitious Blueprint to be achieved. He expressed his country's long-term goals and hopes to reflect the strength and capabilities of Saudi Arabia. One of the important strategies implemented by the kingdom in the era of Muhammad bin Salman's leadership is to create equal opportunities for every one included women. The Saudi Kingdom encourages women to be more involved in the ambition of advancing the superior Saudi Arabian project. The transformation of Saudi policy that seems to limit the role of women in Saudi Arabia has become an important object for Saudi Arabia to review the role of women that was previously considered to limit the role of women due to various cultural stereotypes that have developed in the Saudi region for long time. Various women's activities that previously seemed to limit women have made it a gender issue that needs to be reviewed by the Kingdom so that it has issued various policy transformations on protecting women's rights so that they can participate more in various same opportunities, especially in the economic sector.

Prince Muhammad bin Salman has an important role in protect the women's freedom through this policy. On CBS's interview, he said strongstatement of equal live opportunities "We all human beings and there is no difference". Even it's start like others general statement, the implementation from this vision absolutely different for Saudi. This is look as a big movement for the new Saudi in the future. For the example, next 2030 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia try to increase amount 30% women from 22% to participating in the workspace sector's. The Saudi Arabia Kingdom also try to make easily administration'd for women. With this situation, He show how he care and seeks to providing a program of equal economic opportunities for everyone, what ever even men, women, young or old so that they are able to give their best abilities (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2016).

Prince Muhammad Bin Salman's policy has received special attention from the observers especially from women emancipation's activist. Regarding his efforts to protect women's rights in Saudi Arabia, which ishave so far has been considered limited due to various previous cultural stereotypes. The substance of this content can be seen in the main objective which contains efforts to free Saudi from dependence on fossil fuels, carry out modernization that is equal to cultural traditions, and increase the profile of the kingdom (Ahmad, 2023)

Prince Muhammad Bin Salman's managed to surprise the world with the steps he took. He try to make an significant step towards achieving gender equality in the country. This is in line with the objectives of the Arab Vision 2030 which is an initiative that aims to transform Saudi Arabia's economy with a focus on economic diversification, infrastructure development, and social reform. One of the main aspects of this vision is to provide more opportunities for womento participate in the social and economic life of the country. It is important to note that Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that has long been known for strict gender segregation and limitedrights for women. (The New York Times. 2021)

Therefore, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman to give women the right to freedoms such as driving and participating in various sectors of society. This shows his commitment to modernizing the country and empowering its female population. This policy isnot just about granting basic rights, but also has wider implications. By allowing women to drive, they gain independence and mobility, which can lead to increased participation in the labor force (Human Right Watch 2022). In addition, empowering women also has a positive social impact. When given equal opportunities, women can contribute their unique perspectivesand skills to problem-solving and decision-making processes.





In conclusion, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman's policy of championing women's freedom in Saudi Arabia is an important step towards achieving gender equality. By giving women the right to drive and fully participate in society, he not only empowers them but also contributes to economic growth and social progress. However, achieving this freedom is not easy because the policies taken by Prince MBS have been opposed by some Ulama, namely from the wahabi group. As is known, the wahabi group has a dominant nature in determining the policies and regulations of the Saudi Kingdom so far. Wahabi, with its conservative and fundamentalist spirit, has influenced the social, cultural and religious sectors in Saudi Arabia. The emergence of economic and social reform policies introduced by Muhammad bin Salman will have an impact on changing the position of Wahabis.

For now, the response given by Wahabi clerics only has the ability to maintain their honor without being able to do more, because the king's decision has absolute power and does not provide room for them to rebel. In addition, the government has begun to tighten supervision of scholars who are considered to encourage the spirit of extremism (Adriansyah Andi. 2020). Extremism is a major challenge in Saudi Arabia's efforts to modernize various aspects of life and encourage a more moderate Islamic presence in the country. One of the main policies introduced by Prince Muhammad Bin Salman is Vision 2030. This vision aims to transform Saudi Arabia's oil-dependent economy into a more diversified and innovative one. The reform program includes economic diversification, investment in non-oil sectors such as tourism and entertainment, as well as efforts to increase women's participation in public life.

Prior to the 2030 Arab Vision, women in Saudi Arabia had limited access to education, employment, and political participation as women's lives in the Arab world were severely limited by conservative social and cultural norms. The existence of Arab women before the Arab Vision 2030 has experienced significant challenges and changes. As part of a society rich in culture and tradition, Arab women are often confronted with social and gender boundaries that limit their freedoms (Asian Women. 2019). Saudi women generally have limited access to education and employment opportunities. They are often expected to fulfill traditional roles as mothers and housekeepers, with little room to pursue their careers or personal ambitions. In addition, the existence of strict sharia law can also limit women's rights in terms of divorce, inheritance, and freedom of movement (Jouharah Mohammad Abalkhail. 2017). They often have no right to work or education, and rarely have control over their own lives. Freedom of expression is also severely restricted, with many banning certain clothing or actions.

In addition, gender segregation is strictly enforced in schools, with separate facilities for boys and girls, resulting in a significant gender gap in educational attainment. In addition, the quality of education is substandard due to outdated teaching methods and lack of resources. Teachers rely heavily on rote learning techniques instead of encouraging students' creativity and analytical thinking. In addition, historically Saudi women have also faced many barriers in education. They were not given equal opportunities to attend school and were discouraged from pursuing higher education. However, with the Arab Vision 2030, there is new hope for women's freedom in the region. The initiative aims to create a more inclusive society and empower all its citizens regardless of gender.

With the introduction of the Arab Vision 2030 by Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Saudi Arabia, many positive changes have taken place in the lives of Arab women. An important step in achieving this goal is liberalizing social rules and sharia law that restrict women's rights by amending





their laws to provide legal protection for women in terms of divorce, inheritance freedom of movement. In addition, the Arab Vision 2030 also encourages women's participation in the world of work and education. Many programs have been launched to increase Arab women's access to higher education and job training, and promote their involvement in different sectors of the economy. One of the main goals is to increase women's economic participation by providing equal employment and educational opportunities. With this vision in place, the government is committed to providing wider opportunities for women to develop and actively contribute to society.

The existence of Arab Vision 2030 has brought positive changes in the lives of women in Saudi Arabia. Their freedom to express themselves, access education and participate in the workforce has increased. By continuing these efforts, it is expected that women's freedom will be further championed and fully realized in Saudi Arabian society. Judging from the freedom of women, it can be concluded that women have an important role in achieving the goals of the Arab vision 2030 with the aim of developing the economy, improving the quality life, and strengthening the position of Arab countries in the world. To achieve these goals, the active participation of women in various sectors is key. It can be seen from this that women can also act as agents of social change. They can influence society in a positive way through education and teaching moral values. By empowering women in this regard, Arab countries can create a more harmonious and developed society. Furthermore, women's active participation in politics is also very important. With equal representation of men and women in government institutions, policies that are more inclusive and in favor of the interests of all citizens can be realized.

Gap Research

Based on the research theme that has been raised previously, more emphasis is placed on Saudi development through constructivism. The first in the study *From Domestic to Public: The Construction of Women's Empowerment Discourse in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030* licensed Under a Creative Commons Attribution Share A like 4.0 International License by Ainurrofiq and Khasanah. Also the second written in the Journal by Jamilah and Rika discussing the theme of economic encouragement. The third study, among others, was raised by Analieza et al., on women's rights reform through Saudi Vision 2030 in 2017-2019. Therefore, the researcher emphasizes the character of Muhammad bin Salman as a policy maker who has a major role in the implementation of the transformation of Saudi social norms, especially in the way of looking ahead in involving the role of women in helping to build the Saudi kingdom which is ambitious to be at the forefront of the global arena and better in the future

Research Question

Based on this background, a The problem in this research is: Why did Prince Muhammad Bin Salman carried out reform policies regarding women's rights in Saudi Arabia 2017-2022?

Goal Research

Based on the objectives to be achieved, the author hopes that the results of this research can provide benefits from a theoretical and practical side. The researcher hopes that the results of this





research can enrich the body of knowledge for the development of international relations, especially the study of safeguarding women's rights in the current era.

Conceptual Framework

Based on the formulation of the problem related to Prince Muhammad Bin Salman's efforts to protect for women's rights in Saudi Arabia amidst opposition from scholars, the framework of this study will use the concept of political system and the concept of legitimacy used by David Easton.

1. The Concept of Political System

The concept of political system is one of the important concepts in the study of political science. This theory discusses how political power and policies are organized and operate in a political system. In this theory, the political system is viewed as a unit consisting of various elements that interact with each other. One of the famous figures in political system theory is David Easton. According to Easton, the political system consists of input, output, and the processes that connect them. The input includes the demands and aspirations of the community, while the output is the policies produced by the government. These processes include interactions between political actors in making decisions. In his works "A Framework for Political Analysis" (1965) and "A System Analysis of Political Life" (1965), Easton argues that David Easton began to develop and explain the concepts that supported his earlier writings, which were initially abstract.²⁹ He did this by trying to apply these concepts to real political activities, and explicitly stated the following:

1. Society is a system consisting of all the components in it and has an open nature.
2. Easton's definition of politics is that the political system is a collection of interactions abstracted from the totality of social behavior, where values are allocated authoritatively to society.
3. The environment consists of intrasocial (within society) and extrasocial (outside society) elements.

David introduced the concept of "political equilibrium", where there is a balance between the demands of various groups and the capacity of the government to respond. When this balance is disturbed, it can lead to instability or even regime change. Furthermore, David Easton highlighted the importance of feedback mechanisms in maintaining stability. Feedback allows for adjustments in policy making based on societal reactions and helps prevent major disruptions in the political system.

The political system flow model above is a concept that describes how the environment, both intra-societal and extra-societal, can influence the demands and support that enter the political system.³² This model is a further development of the scheme created by David Easton in his work in 1953. In this model, the environment is seen as an important factor that influences the political process. The intra-social environment refers to factors within the society itself, such as social structure, cultural norms, and economic conditions. These elements shape the demands and expectations of individuals from the political system.³³ In this case, it can be seen that the Saudi Arabian environment has a significant influence on the Arab Vision 2030 policy, where as a country with a conservative culture and tradition, this transformation is a major step towards more inclusive social and economic progress. In this case, the Saudi Arabian environment has seen a change in society's views on women.





The Concept of Legitimacy

The concept of legitimacy, as outlined by Max Weber, is a fundamental aspect of the social and political system. According to Weber, legitimacy refers to the belief that a particular authority or system is legitimate and worthy of obedience. He argued that there are three types of legitimacy: traditional, charismatic, and rational-legal. Traditional legitimacy is based on long-standing customs and traditions. It is rooted in the belief that authority derives from the president and historical continuity. For example, monarchies often derive their legitimacy from long-standing lineages and ties to previous rulers. This is rooted in the belief that authority derives from the president and historical continuity. For example, monarchies often derive their legitimacy from long-standing lineages and ties to previous rulers.

This move has increased Prince Mohammed's legitimacy among those who support gender equality. However, there are also critics who question the authenticity and sincerity behind these reforms. Some argue that the reforms are merely cosmetic changes aimed at improving Saudi Arabia's international image, rather than addressing deep-rooted issues of gender inequality. These skeptics view Prince Mohammed's policies as lacking true legitimacy due to their limited scope and failure to address the broader social challenges faced by women. Saudi Arabia has historically been known for its strict gender segregation and limited rights for women.

However, Prince Mohammed bin Salman recognises that these policies are no longer sustainable in a rapidly changing world. By granting women more freedoms such as driving and attending public events, he aims to portray himself as a progressive leader who is responsive to the needs of his people. In defending his legitimacy regarding his gender policies, Prince Mohammed bin Salman uses the rationale of modernisation as the basis for his legitimacy. He argues that his policies on women's freedoms are part of the country's efforts to modernise and encourage women's participation in economic and social development. By promoting this narrative, he seeks to convince the public that his measures are

Research Methods

Based on the problems studied, the research method that will be used in this research is to use explanatory research methods with qualitative research types. Explanatory research is a research method that aims to explain the causal relationship between the variables studied. This research is very important in science because it helps answer the question of "why" a phenomenon occurs, by testing hypotheses and finding empirical evidence that supports the relationship between variables. This method is very useful for confirming theories, testing assumptions, and providing an in-depth understanding of various complex phenomena (P3MP Universitas Medan Area, 2021). In this case, there are two variables that are connected in this study. This research has several functions, namely explaining. By using qualitative methods. Sharan B. and Merriam in Sugiyono said about Qualitative research is an inquiry approach useful for exploring and understanding a central phenomenon (Sugiyono, 2023). In this case, The author can gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between these variables. Qualitative methods are used because the main focus of this research is to answer the questions "why" and "how". The author will analyze the data obtained through interviews, observations, or literature studies. The data will then be interpreted to find certain patterns or themes.





The explanatory method and qualitative research type, Researcher hoped that the results of this paper can provide new contributions in the field of study being researched. In addition, the results of this research are also expected to be used as a basis for the development of new theories or the formulation of better policies in the future. The data collection technique used, namely through the collection of secondary data through library research, by collecting, tracing and processing data from print media, and electronic media such as: books, internet, journals, articles, news, and other relevant reports or writings studied either in the form of physical data or online data sourced from the internet. The data analysis technique that will be carried out is descriptive. Findings and data in the form of scientific research journals will be used to see previous analysis of the efforts made by Prince Muhammad Bin Salman to support and protect the women's emancipation in Saudi Arabia. Analysis and relevant research results will be included in the research as an additional rationale and analysis is carried out to explain or explain how something can happen by collecting facts with systematics

Result and Discussion

The Subordinate issue about women's in this world is an big issue must to be complete in the modern area. The women's right should be protects by the law because the women's role is really urgent if we see in the historical prototype. Alfatih and Dahlan make an argument how the long history seeing the woman as inferior to men continues to affect the lives of women around the world. At this time, The women still face unfair treatment and are denied at the same rights, opportunities, and freedom that men have, even in countries the women role is important like in a UK (Alfatih & Dahlan, 2024). In Saudi Arabia, in histories, the women look have low position if we compared by women around the world, where the Saudi rank by US News & World Report are the 88th from 89th Best Countries Rankings who in in terms of gender equality (U.S News & World Report, 2025). As explained earlier, the formation of women's roles is also strongly influenced by customs and cultural norms in Arab countries where the centrality of men in women's lives is very prominent as in the formation of a patriarchal culture where this patriarchal culture puts men at the forefront of the decision making process in the family and society. Women are expected to obey their fathers, husbands, or other male relatives without hesitation, creating a power imbalance that limits women's freedom and autonomy (Hussain, 2017).

As well as the establishment of cultural norms against women such as the prohibition against women leaving the house without the permission of the eldest man in the house. Saudi women have long endured adherence to strict gender norms and restrictions. They are required to conform to ancient customs and cultural traditions that prioritize male supremacy. Women are often required to be subservient to men, which subjects them to restrictions on their rights in various spheres of life, including education, employment, marriage, and even basic freedoms such as the right to drive. There are several obvious aspects of gender segregation, namely in the economic, educational, socio-cultural and political fields.

In the field of education

In the field of education, the Saudi government has implemented a religion-based curriculum that differentiates the selection of study programs between men and women. Despite the Saudi government's efforts to develop and improve the education system over the past five years, gender





discrimination still exists within educational institutions in Saudi Arabia. The country's education system is closely linked to the teachings of Islam, with curricula based on religious values, and as a result this disparity has contributed to the perpetuation of stereotypes that label Muslim societies as discriminatory towards women. These stereotypes often arise due to a misunderstanding of the teachings of Islam and its culture. According to Article 13 of the Basic Law on State Government, the main purpose of education is to instill Islamic values in the younger generation from an early age.

As a result, educational institutions often differentiate between men and women in various aspects, including in the selection of majors, so that the curriculum is structured in such a way as to reinforce traditional gender roles, where men are expected to be active in the public sphere while women are usually limited to domestic roles in the household. The Saudi Arabian government restricts women in education especially at the university level, where they are not given the freedom to choose majors that are considered exclusive to men, such as majors centered on science and technology. Instead, women are directed to major in humanities, teacher education, literature, and health. In addition, the Saudi Arabian government also differentiates classrooms between male students and female students with different subjects, these limitations significantly impact women's career choices.

In the field of work and economy

The challenges faced by women in Saudi Arabia in terms of public mobility have long hampered their economic progress, ultimately impacting the country's economy as a whole. Rooted in Islamic Sharia law, these constraints have limited women's ability to pursue careers or establish their own businesses. Before the discovery of oil in the 1960s, industrial and office job opportunities were scarce in Saudi Arabia, so many women preferred to be housewives. However, with the advent of the oil industry, changes began to take place. Men became more involved in government jobs and oil exploration projects, while women began to gain access to educational opportunities and training programs. Since the 1970s, the government of Saudi Arabia has taken steps to increase the prosperity of the nation by allowing women to pursue careers. However, in accordance with Islamic norms, women and men are separated in the workplace. As women are only allowed to work in certain sectors, such as working in banks, restaurants as well as women-only shops, this leads to gender discrimination and discourages women's participation in the workforce. This segregation remains a significant factor contributing to the low proportion of female workers in Saudi Arabia.

In the Social field

In the social sphere, segregation between men and women is a common rule that pervades many aspects of public and social life in many societies such as in banking, access to public transportation, and employment opportunities that are deeply rooted in traditional values that prohibit mixing of the sexes. This practice is closely linked to the Wahabi interpretation of gender separation, which is the dominant school of Islam in Saudi Arabia. According to this interpretation, mixing between men and women can lead to temptation and bad consequences. As a result, strict measures are implemented to ensure gender separation in all spheres of life. For example, educational institutions strictly enforce gender separation by providing separate classrooms for male and female students. Similarly, banking facilities have designated areas for men and women to conduct





transactions separately and even local governments provide specialized financial services for female customers, where this practice aims to empower women by offering a safe environment where they can conduct their banking affairs without harassment or intimidation.

In addition, access to public transportation is often segregated by gender. This can be seen in the existence of buses that are divided into two sections with separate seating areas for women to avoid potential harassment or discomfort during the trip. Not only that, restaurants as public spaces also often have separate dining rooms for women this is done to maintain their privacy and maintain a sense of modesty. This separation is believed to prevent potential transgressions or inappropriate behavior. In addition, shopping malls and boutiques in Jeddah are also reserved for women as seen by the words "For Ladies Only" in front of closed doors. These are a form of strict control over male-female contact where the spaces are designed to create an environment where women can feel comfortable without the presence of men, but it indirectly restricts the movement of Saudi women.

In Politics

For decades, women in Saudi Arabia have faced limited opportunities for mobility and participation in politics. In the political sphere women are denied the right to vote and run as candidates, effectively excluding them from participating in the democratic process. This blatant discrimination against women is a clear violation of their human rights and undermines their position in society. In 2005, the government of Saudi Arabia made headlines when it officially excluded women from voting and running as candidates in elections. The move was widely condemned by the domestic and international community, who saw it as a clear example of gender inequality and oppression. Women are voiceless and marginalized, unable to have a say in matters that directly affect their lives. There are also legal barriers that discriminate against women. For example, laws regarding divorce heavily favor men while making it difficult for women to divorce without facing social stigma or financial hardship. Overall, before Muhammad Bin Salman's reign, Saudi society marginalized the female population by enforcing strict laws and societal norms. The position of women in Saudi Arabia has slowly begun to change, as seen when Prince Muhammad Bin Salman was appointed as the Crown Prince of the kingdom in 2017.

Policy reforms related to Saudi women's freedom

Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that has an absolute monarchy form of government, where the king is the highest power holder who is the head of government and also the head of state. The position of the king in Saudi Arabia is very strong and has unlimited authority. As the head of government, the king has the authority to make decisions in the political, economic and social fields that affect the entire society. So that during the reign of King Salman, he can appoint and authorize Prince Muhammad Bin Salman as Crown Prince. As Crown Prince, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman and his Father King Salman bin Abdul Aziz created new changes to Saudi Arabia through Saudi Vision 2030 which is a strategic framework to Saudi Arabia embarked on a new journey toward a brighter future with the launch of vision 2030 in 2016 (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2025).

Saudi Vision 2030 is an ambitious plan that aims to transform the economy in Saudi Arabia, it includes measures such as economic diversification, increased investment in non-oil sectors, development of the tourism sector, and increased participation of women in the workforce. One of the





important changes initiated under Vision 2030 is the lifting of the driving ban for women, this landmark decision not only gives women the long-awaited right to drive, but also symbolizes a shift towards gender equality and empowerment. This allows women to become more independent and participate more actively in society. In addition, several reforms have been implemented to increase women's participation in the workforce. Women can now work without seeking permission from a male guardian and have access to previously male-dominated sectors such as law enforcement and military service. These changes have opened new avenues for career development and economic empowerment for Saudi women.

In this regard, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman's role has been crucial in implementing these reforms. His progressive mindset and determination have enabled him to drive significant change in a relatively short period of time. For example, he lifted the ban on women driving, which was seen as a major step towards gender equality. However, before Prince Muhammad Bin Salman lifted the ban on women driving, King Abdullah, the reigning monarch before King Salman, also attempted gender equality by appointing a woman named Noor Al-Fayez as the Deputy Minister of Education for women, which was a major decision and a milestone in the country's journey towards women's empowerment and gender equality.

Internal Factors

Saudi women's reform demands

Saudi women's demands for gender equality have indeed become an increasingly important issue in Saudi Arabian society today. Generally, the old Saudi before King Salman led, known as a country led by a conservative leader with traditional policies, where the policies set have a considerable influence on Saudi society, especially on women, one form of traditional policy used by the Saudi government is the existence of strict guardianship laws for women. In this case women must have a male guardian who is usually a father, husband, or brother who will have the authority to make important decisions on behalf of Saudi women, this authority covers in all aspects such as marriage, travel, and even medical care. The guardianship system is a form of traditional patriarchal policy used by the Saudi government against women, with the implementation of the system certainly causing gender discrimination and inequality against Saudi women.

The existence of this discrimination makes Saudi women fight for equality with men, through the demand for gender equality women hope they can have equal rights with men in various fields such as education, politics and also work. In addition, this demand is also related to the fulfillment of the potential of Arab women where with the freedom they have, they can develop their talents and interests without any cultural or social barriers. The demands for reform made by Saudi women have been going on for quite a long time, even the demands for reform have existed since the reign of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The issue of reform has been ongoing since the early 2000s, the issue of women's reform in Saudi Arabia began to attract the attention of the general public, especially after the tragic events of September 11, 2001 that occurred in New York and Washington carried out by a number of individuals of which 15 were identified as Saudi citizens (Sholihah et al., 2023).

This, therefore, triggered a wave of demands for change both within Saudi Arabia and from the international community. The 9/11 incident at the time put increasing pressure for greater rights for women. In addition, 9/11 changed the way the world viewed Saudi Arabia. In this case, the United





States as a country that experienced the tragic extremist event emphasized the importance of intervening in the policies of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with a main focus on promoting education, especially for women (Sholihah et al., 2023). Women's education is considered a powerful weapon against religious extremism, as it is believed that educated mothers will raise more moderate children. Thus, efforts to improve access to education for women in Saudi Arabia are crucial as part of a strategy to prevent extremism and enhance regional stability. These measures can also help change the country's image in the eyes of the world and strengthen relations between Saudi Arabia and other countries. Therefore, in 2004, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia launched a national dialog with a focus on addressing women's issues. One of the main points discussed was the need to reassess the social status of women, including consideration of gender segregation.

As a result, in 2004 a ministerial decree called for the establishment of special sports and cultural centers for women in Saudi Arabia. Following this initiative, Riyadh has been home to the only women-only hotel in the Middle East since 2008. The hotel is staffed exclusively by women who cater to female guests. This move marks a significant step toward empowering women and giving them a space where they can freely express themselves and engage in various activities without any restrictions. Overall, this initiative demonstrates King Abdullah's commitment to promoting gender equality and improving the status of women in Saudi society. Despite King Abdullah's efforts to implement reforms on women's issues in Saudi Arabia, conservative rules still remain in the country. Although some progress has been made, such as the banning of forced marriages and the appointment of the first female deputy minister of education, there are still significant obstacles that Saudi women face in their daily lives.

Government support for religious nationalism continues to limit women's rights and opportunities. Women are allowed to work, but only in segregated spaces such as a women-only hotel in Riyadh established in 2008 and a women-only industrial town in Hofuf that began operations in 2012. Earlier in 2007, a group of human rights activists including 60-year-old AlYousef, a former professor of computer science at King Saud University, known for her advocacy against the male guardianship system and defender of women's rights took the bold step of petitioning King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. The petition called for the removal of the driving ban for women in the country.

The campaign gained momentum when Saudi women's rights activist Wajeha Al-Huwaider launched the Women drive campaign on International Women's Day in 2008 through social media (Human Rights Watch, 2018). Al-Huwaider bravely drove a car and uploaded a video of her driving to YouTube, which sparked a wave of support and activism among Saudi women. This action inspired many other women to also upload their driving videos to YouTube in protest against the discriminatory ban. The movement continued to grow, culminating in significant protests in 2011 in several parts of Saudi Arabia where several Saudi women participated by driving and sharing their experiences online. These courageous actions played an important role in driving change and ultimately led to the historic decision to lift the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia. In addition, the wave of the Arab Spring in 2011 also marked a turning point in the Middle East triggering a wave of reform and activism that had a profound impact on Saudi women. As beneficiaries of this movement, Saudi women began to challenge societal norms and restrictions, especially the driving ban (Aloufi & Francisco, 2017).

In 2016, Muhammad Bin Salman launched Saudi Vision 2030, this vision succeeded in bringing significant changes to women's freedom in the kingdom. Whereas previously women were





seen as objects, they have now taken an active role as subjects in society. The lifting of discriminatory rules that once shackled women has allowed them to thrive and contribute to the nation's progress. This transformation not only empowers women, but also paves the way for a more inclusive and equal society. Women are no longer confined to traditional gender roles, but are breaking boundaries and making their mark in various fields. The vision set by MBS has opened doors for women to pursue their aspirations and dreams, leading to a brighter future for all individuals in the kingdom. Thus, since 2015 women have been given the right to participate in politics, as evidenced by the appointment of Noor al-Fayezas Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Education. In addition, King Salman's decision to appoint Tamader Bint Yousef Al-Rahmah as Deputy Minister of Labor is also a strategic move that demonstrates his commitment to promoting women in leadership roles. With a background in radiology and a Ph.D. in Radiology and Medical Engineering, Tamader Al-Rammah brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new position.

In addition to his role as Deputy Minister of Labor & Social Development, Tamader AlRammah also serves as Chairman of the Social and Family Authority. Her contributions to organizations such as the Saudi Human Rights Commission and the Zahra Breast Cancer Society highlight her commitment to serving the community and advocating for important social issues. Overall, Tamader Bint Rashid Al-Rahmah's appointment as Deputy Minister is not only a milestone for gender equality in Saudi Arabia, but also an affirmation of her outstanding qualifications and dedication to public service. Not only that, in 2018 MBS also lifted the ban on women driving, with the lifting of the ban considered a symbolic first step of progress and a sign that Saudi Arabia is willing to loosen its grip on policy.

The lifting of the driving ban is one of the most influential policies introduced under Saudi Vision 2030. For decades, Saudi Arabia was one of the few countries in the world that prohibited women from driving, so this policy change not only provides greater mobility and freedom for women, but also symbolizes a shift towards gender equality. In addition, on July 26, 2019, the Government of Saudi Arabia established the freedom for women to travel in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, on August 18, the Minister of Interior issued amendments to the Travel Documents Law, which previously required the permission of a male guardian for women and girls, as well as men and boys under 21, to obtain a passport. The new regulation now requires guardian permission only for those under 21, regardless of gender, and removes the requirement for women over 21. The amendment also removes article 28, which previously required Saudi women's foreign travel to comply with "applicable instructions," effectively removing the legal basis for requiring a male guardian's permission for women to travel abroad. In addition, the amendment now uses gender-neutral language when referring to a male guardian's permission for overseas travel for those under the age of 21.

Legitimization Needs

As explained in the previous chapter that legitimacy is a concept that is deeply rooted in society that has a function as a basis for one's authority and power, the basis refers to the acceptance and recognition of the legitimate claims of an individual or institution to rule or be ruled. As a leader Prince Muhammad Bin Salman certainly has political legitimacy, where the legitimacy comes from his position in the royal family as Crown Prince. As it is known that Muhammad Bin Salman is one of the important figures behind the social reforms in Saudi Arabia and he is the originator of the





Arabian Vision 2030, where the aim of this vision is to make Saudi Arabia a prosperous country without having to depend on petroleum as a state revenue. In addition, Muhammad Bin Salman also wants to make Saudi Arabia a more modern Islamic country by reforming in various fields such as education, socio-culture, economy, and politics which are in accordance with the values contained in the 2030 Arabian Vision. Previously, the legitimacy of Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) as Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has been a topic of debate and spotlight. Some argue that he is a visionary leader, while others question his methods and policies. Muhammad Bin Salman himself was appointed by King Salman, his father to be the Crown Prince who holds absolute power in the country. This appointment signaled the king's confidence in Muhammad Bin Salman's ability to lead and implement the necessary reforms.

In addition, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman also tried to get the attention of the Saudi people, especially from women, this was done by Muhammad Bin Salman because he did not get full support from the royal officials when he was crowned Crown Prince. It is undeniable that Muhammad Bin Salman has made significant changes in Saudi Arabia since taking power. He has implemented economic reforms aimed at diversifying the economy and reducing dependence on oil. These reforms include Vision 2030, which seeks to modernize various sectors such as tourism, entertainment and technology. In addition, Muhammad Bin Salman has also taken steps towards social reform by lifting restrictions on women's rights. This includes allowing women to drive and attend sporting events, which were previously banned. These changes have been widely praised as progressive steps towards gender equality. Therefore, as a leader who will carry out reforms, Muhammad Bin Salman needs legitimacy to realize the Arab Vision 2030 where legitimacy is obtained from the support and trust of the people of Saudi Arabia, especially those in the kingdom, because trust and support are the initial foundation in realizing the vision.

In addition, Muhammad Bin Salman also needs legitimacy from outside parties, this is because the Arab Vision 2030 will have a close relationship with the international world. Therefore, to gain legitimacy, Muhammad Bin Salman made several changes that had been dreamed of by Saudi society, especially for women, namely by allowing women to drive and attend sporting events, which marked a significant shift towards gender equality in a traditionally conservative society. These reforms not only empower women, but also increase their participation in various sectors of society. Prince Muhammad Bin Salman's political legitimacy allows him to gain support both from within the royal family and from the general public. This support has allowed him to forge ahead with his reform agenda despite facing opposition from more conservative factions in Saudi Arabia. As a relatively new leader, Muhammad bin Salman faces the challenge of convincing the public that he has the credibility and capability to implement the necessary changes in Saudi Arabia.

To achieve this, Muhammad bin Salman has undertaken various political reforms aimed at building public trust in his leadership. One of the key reforms undertaken by Muhammad bin Salman is the ban on corruption. Major events are taking place in Saudi Arabia. Princes, ministers and prominent businessmen are being arrested and held in luxury hotels, accused of corruption. Their planes are being grounded and their assets are being seized. This move sends a strong message to domestic and international audiences that he is committed to rooting out corruption from all levels of government (Gardner, 2017). By taking decisive action against corrupt officials, Muhammad Bin





Salman demonstrated his determination to bring about real change and create a more transparent and accountable government. Another important reform undertaken by Muhammad Bin Salman is the eradication of extremist groups. Saudi Arabia has long been associated with extremist ideologies, and by actively working to eradicate these groups, Muhammad Bin Salman aims to show that he is serious about promoting peace and stability in the region (Al Qurtuby & Aldamer, 2020).

This not only helps build public trust but also enhances Saudi Arabia's reputation on the global stage. For Arab Vision 2030 to succeed, it is imperative for Muhammad bin Salman to gain social legitimacy. This means that he must ensure that the sweeping changes proposed by this vision do not violate the deeply rooted values and norms held by conservative Saudi society. 2030 Arabian Vision aims to transform Saudi Arabia into a more diversified and modern economy, reducing its dependence on oil. However, these changes will undoubtedly have an impact on the country's culture and traditions as it is crucial for Muhammad Bin Salman to navigate the delicate balance between progress and preserving cultural heritage. To achieve social legitimacy, Muhammad Bin Salman must engage in open dialog with his people, he needs to understand their concerns and address them appropriately. By involving various stakeholders in the decision making process, he can ensure that their voices are heard and their values are respected.

As such, he can help bridge the gap between tradition and modernity. In addition, Muhammad Bin Salman needs to lead by example. His actions should reflect his commitment to upholding Saudi values while embracing change. By showing respect for cultural norms, he can inspire others to do the same. Based on the explanation above, it is clear that before Muhammad Bin Salman carries out major reforms through the establishment of the Arab Vision 2030 and implements the values contained in the vision, Muhammad Bin Salman as the founder of the vision must be able to convince the people of Saudi Arabia that the steps he has taken aim to improve the quality of life of women in this case he needs legitimacy as a leader.

The changing pattern of leadership in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Throughout history, the pattern of leadership in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has indeed undergone significant transformation, one important aspect that has witnessed substantial change is the freedom of women, in traditional Arab societies women are often restricted to the private sphere and have limited rights and opportunities. The pattern of leadership held by Arab monarchs before King Salman has undeniably had a significant impact on the status and rights of women in the Arab world. Throughout history, Arab kings ruled in an authoritarian style that often suppressed women's voices and rights. They maintained a patriarchal system that confined women to traditional roles as wives and mothers, limiting their access to education and employment opportunities. Under the rule of previous kings, women were marginalized and their voices silenced, denied basic human rights such as freedom of expression and participation in decisionmaking processes.

In 2015 when King Salman was installed as King of Saudi Arabia, social reforms slowly began to take place, in this case wahabi ideology began to shift towards a more moderate and inclusive direction. King Salman has taken steps to modernize Saudi society, including giving women the right to drive and encouraging economic reforms, where these reforms have intensified due to the role of Prince Muhammad Bin Salman as Crown Prince. As it is known that one of King Salman's children, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, who served as Crown Prince, is one of the drivers of Saudi Arabia's





social reforms, when viewed from his educational background he not only received education from the state of Saudi Arabia but he also received education abroad, this made him a leader who was open to change. The mindset that Muhammad Bin Salman currently has is inseparable from his father's upbringing as an open-minded leader, therefore the existence of Muhammad Bin Salman as Crown Prince and King Salman as the highest leader in Saudi Arabia makes Saudi Arabia a more modern Muslim country when compared to other Muslim countries in the Middle East region.

The existence of Muhammad Bin Salman as the Crown Prince who received a lot of education from western countries has its own impact on the freedom of Saudi women, where he began to relax existing norms such as lifting the driving ban for women and encouraging their involvement in the economic and political fields, where Muhammad Bin Salman has embarked on a broader agenda aimed at modernizing the country and dismantling entrenched patriarchal structures. In addition, Muhammad Bin Salman has actively promoted women's involvement in economics and politics, he has encouraged their participation in various sectors, including business and politics, by appointing female ministers and creating opportunities for entrepreneurship. These initiatives not only empower Saudi women, but also contribute to diversifying the country's economy. Despite facing resistance from conservative factions in Saudi society, these initiatives have driven important changes in the condition of Saudi women. The increased visibility and participation of women in public life signifies a progressive evolution in societal norms.

In addition, these reforms have attracted international attention and praise for their commitment to gender equality. The social reforms carried out by Prince Muhammad Bin Salman are also inseparable from his existence as Crown Prince, where as the Crown Prince makes him not want to lose his legitimacy as a leader. As a leader, Prince Muhammad Bin Salman certainly has political legitimacy, where the legitimacy comes from his position in the royal family as Crown Prince. As is known, Muhammad Bin Salman is one of the important figures behind the social reforms in Saudi Arabia and he is the originator of the Arab Vision 2030. In addition, Muhammad Bin Salman also wants to make Saudi Arabia a more modern Islamic country by carrying out reforms in various fields such as in the fields of education, socio-culture, economy, and also politics where this is in accordance with the values contained in the Arab Vision 2030. It is undeniable that Muhammad Bin Salman has made significant changes in Saudi Arabia since taking power. He has implemented economic reforms aimed at diversifying the economy and reducing dependence on oil. These reforms include Vision 2030, which seeks to modernize various sectors such as tourism, entertainment and technology.

The success of Prince Muhammad Bin Salman in carrying out social reform in Saudi Arabia is also inseparable from the existence of Princess Sara bint Mashour bin Abdulaziz Al Saud as the wife of Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, where she is used as a role model by other Saudi women to demand the right to freedom, Princess Sara is used as a role model not without reason, as it is known that Princess Sara is a woman who has a high social concern and is aware of the importance of education (PIME asianews, 2005). In addition, the things that distinguish Princess Sara from Arab women in general can be seen from the way she dresses, unlike most Arab women who wear traditional abayas in their daily lives, Princess Sara leans more towards a more westernized style of dress. This difference sets her apart and displays her individuality and modern outlook on life. By choosing Western-style clothing, Princess Sara shows her openness to different cultures and fashion trends, her choice to dress differently from the norm reflects her confidence and independence as a woman. It





also shows that she is not afraid to break away from societal expectations and express herself through her personal style.

It can be seen based on this explanation that the change in leadership patterns in Saudi Arabia was largely driven by demands, with various parties such as civil society, human rights activists, women, and other reformist groups calling for changes in the political, social, and legal systems. One significant form of demand is for an end to the male guardianship system, which gives male guardians great power over the lives of women in Saudi Arabia. This issue has been a focal point of the reform movement in the country and has led to changes in leadership patterns and policies. The demand for change reflects a growing desire for greater equality and rights for all Saudi citizens. As these demands continue to shape the country's political landscape, it is clear that the leadership must respond to the call for reform to meet the needs and aspirations of its people.

B. External Factors

Culturally, Saudi Arabian society places a strong emphasis on traditional gender roles and patriarchal norms. Women are expected to submit to male authority figures, such as their fathers or husbands. In addition, external factors such as international pressure have influenced the issue of women's freedoms in Saudi Arabia. Human rights organizations and foreign governments have consistently criticized the Saudi government for its treatment of women.

The demands of realizing sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Saudi Arabia has long been known for its vast oil reserves and wealth, but in recent years the kingdom has made significant strides towards sustainable development. Saudi Arabia through the ambition policy Saudi Vision 2030, try to aims to diversify its economy and reduce its dependence on oil by investing in renewable energy sources and promoting environmental conservation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2025). As one of the countries known for having the largest oil holdings in the world, Saudi Arabia wants to take part in realizing the sustainable development goals (SDGs) program set by the United Nations (UN). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global agenda consisting of 17 main points and 4 pillars to achieve sustainable development. These goals were set by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet from environmental damage and ensure prosperity for all the world's people (National Geographics, 2025). The four pillars of the SDGs include economic growth, social inclusion, environmental protection and good governance. The 17 goals address specific issues such as poverty, hunger, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, climate action, and peace and justice.

By working collectively to achieve these goals, countries can create a more sustainable future for generations to come. In this case, Saudi Arabia has an important role in realizing sustainable development goals through Saudi Vision 2030 which is a catalyst to encourage sustainable social, economic and environmental development. To support the program, Saudi Arabia uses the role of women, which is also one of the applications of the 17 points of the SDGs, namely gender equality. In this case, the Saudi Arabian government has taken progressive steps in improving transportation infrastructure in their country by launching a new program called Wusool. This program is specifically designed to facilitate transportation for female workers, who previously often had difficulty finding safe and comfortable means of transportation.





In addition, Saudi Arabia also emphasizes the importance of sustainable development with a focus on three main pillars: social, economic and environmental. They realize that sustainable development must take into account the needs of society as a whole without harming the environment. With these steps, Saudi Arabia shows its commitment to continue to develop and become a better country for all its citizens, especially for women. By realizing the 5th point of sustainable development goals, Saudi Arabia is increasingly aware of the potential

and existence of women, therefore the Saudi government opens many opportunities for Saudi women to develop further and slowly eliminate gender discrimination. Apart from being influenced by the development of sustainable development goals, the freedom of Saudi women is also influenced by the gender equality promotion policy strategy. A gender equality promotion policy strategy refers to a set of measures and actions taken by governments, organizations and individuals to ensure equal rights, opportunities and treatment for all genders.

The strategy aims to eliminate discrimination and bias based on gender, creating a society where everyone can thrive regardless of their gender identity. Gender equality promotion policies related to women's freedom in Saudi Arabia have also undergone changes in recent years. The Saudi government has announced policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, which include allowing women to travel without permission from male relatives.

The influence of globalization in technology and communication

The presence of globalization has provided changes for the international world, not least for the country of Saudi Arabia itself. One form of globalization that occurs is the development of technology and communication that is increasingly worldwide, with technological advances and communication certainly having an impact on several aspects. Not only that, advances in technology and communication have successfully influenced the development of women in Saudi Arabia, where technological advances, such as the internet and social media platforms have become powerful tools for Saudi women in expressing their voices and advocating for their rights. Through online activism, they are able to challenge societal norms and demand gender equality, in this case Saudi women use hashtags such as #TogetherToEndMaleGuardianship and #StopEnslavingSaudiWomen to protest against the government and to promote freedom and social inclusion (Rahman & Al-Azm Editors, n.d.).

In this case it appears that the media has played an important role in shaping public opinion regarding women's rights in the Arab world. Television shows, movies and documentaries have highlighted the struggles faced by Arab women, raising awareness of their plight among the general public. As was the case in 2014, women used advances in communication technology through social media platforms to express their demands for the fulfillment of women's rights by taking to the streets to protest the restrictions made by the previous Saudi government. These Saudi women documented their experiences on social media platforms such as YouTube and Twitter. The Women 2 drive campaign emerged as a powerful force in advocating for their rights, despite facing arrest and punishment from the authorities (Rahman & Al-Azm Editors, n.d.). The power of social media and collective activism proved instrumental in realizing important victories for gender equality and human rights.

In this regard, the media has played an important role in shaping Arab women's identities, and





media development initiatives have been implemented to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. However, there are barriers to women's continued voice through mass media, as conservative forces use these new technologies to maintain their power, often using social media and mobile technologies to maintain their power and control over women's voices and actions. They spread misinformation, perpetuate harmful stereotypes, and create online spaces that are hostile to feminist discourse.

International Pressure on Saudi Women's Freedom

The issue of gender inequality and discrimination against women is one of the problems that has become a concern for the global community. Therefore, international organizations strive for every country to be able to create gender equality for all its people, this also applies to the country of Saudi Arabia. As previously explained, Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that still experiences gender inequality, where the degree of men is higher than women, therefore the lives of Saudi women seem to be imprisoned by the rules and norms that apply. When Saudi women want to do an activity they must get permission from their husbands, fathers, or eldest men in the family, not only that they are also not allowed to develop the potential that exists in themselves, such as continuing education, working, and engaging in other activities. With their existence living under conservative government rules, international organizations condemn and criticize the government of Saudi Arabia, because what happens to Saudi women is a form of human rights violation.

The form of human rights violations that occur to women in Saudi Arabia can be seen from restrictions on their rights to drive, work, and participate in public life. As it is known that women in Saudi Arabia face many restrictions in their daily lives, such as not being able to drive or travel without permission from a male guardian. Therefore, this has attracted the attention of international organizations, especially the UN, which condemned these actions as a form of discriminatory action, where the condemnation took the form of warnings and criticism. In this case, the UN as an international institution is consistent voiced its concerns about gender inequality and discrimination towards women in Saudi Arabia. Through various mechanisms such as Conventions Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

UN has called on Saudi Arabia to take steps to promote gender equality and protect women's rights. 50 Human rights organizations have therefore been at the forefront of advocating for changes to Saudi Arabia's treatment of women. They have highlighted various cases of discrimination and harassment against women in the country. In this regard, the United Nations as an international organization has consistently voiced its concern about gender inequality and discrimination against women in Saudi Arabia. Through various mechanisms such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the UN has called on Saudi Arabia to take steps to promote gender equality and protect women's rights (United Nations Human Rights, 2020).

CEDAW is an international treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. Saudi Arabia ratified the convention in 2000, demonstrating its commitment to promoting gender equality. However, there are still significant challenges that need to be addressed. International protests occurred when Saudi Arabia ratified CEDAW, which bound it to international standards and advocated for gender equality. One notable incident was when FIDH (International

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Federation for Human Rights) advocated for the release of a woman detained by Saudi Arabian authorities after her participation in a demonstration. This marked a significant shift in attitudes towards women's rights in the country. While there has been progress in creating more inclusive public spaces for women in Saudi Arabia, much work remains to be done. Vision 2030 is a step in the right direction to achieve gender equality and empower women in the country. Saudi Arabia's legal system is based on Islamic law, which often limits women's rights and freedoms. For example, under Saudi law, women are required to have a male guardian who makes decisions on their behalf when it comes to marriage, travel, education and even healthcare.

This system perpetuates gender inequality and limits women's autonomy, in light of which the UN has consistently urged Saudi Arabia to reform laws and practices that discriminate against women. The UN has called for changes in areas such as guardianship laws, access to education and employment opportunities for women, protection against domestic violence, and equal rights in marriage. In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have also been actively involved in highlighting the plight of women in Saudi Arabia. These organizations have conducted extensive research, documented cases of human rights violations, and campaigned for change through advocacy efforts.

The impact of international organizations on women's freedom in Saudi Arabia cannot be underestimated, the pressure they exert has resulted in some positive changes over time, including allowing women to drive, giving them access to education and employment opportunities, and relaxing certain restrictions on their mobility. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have played an important role in highlighting women's rights violations in Saudi Arabia. Through their research and documentation, they have provided evidence of systemic discrimination against women in various aspects of their lives. This evidence has been instrumental in raising awareness among the international community about the dire situation faced by Saudi women.

Conclusions

Political system theory is a theory that discusses how inputs can affect the results of the output, in this case it can be seen that the input that comes from the demands of the people of Saudi Arabia has succeeded in creating an output in the form of the Arab Vision 2030 policy, in this case it can be seen that the Saudi environment has a considerable influence on the results of the policies taken. As explained that the Saudi Arabian environment originating from norms, and the conservative social structure in Saudi Arabia makes its people, especially women, to make demands related to freedom of equal rights with men. In addition, the reforms carried out by Prince Muhammad Bin Salman are also a form of his efforts to obtain or maintain his legitimacy as a crown prince who has a high position in Saudi Arabia.

Based on the research conducted, it can be seen that Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, spearheaded by King Salman, marks an important moment in the country's history as it seeks to modernize and develop into a more developed nation. The reforms implemented under this vision have had a major impact on the status of women in Saudi Arabia, bringing about significant changes in various fields. One of the most notable changes is the newfound freedom for women to choose whether or not to wear traditional veils such as the Cadar or Burqa. In addition, women now have access to various activities that were previously restricted to them.





This socio-cultural advancement is a major step towards gender equality and empowerment in Saudi society. As Vision 2030 continues to roll out, it is clear that King Salman's efforts to modernize the country are making significant strides towards creating a more progressive and inclusive state for all its citizens. Throughout history, 81 women have fought tirelessly for their rights and freedoms. In recent years, significant progress has been made in various aspects of women's lives. One notable advancement is the right for women to drive vehicles. This simple act symbolizes a larger shift towards gender equality and empowerment. In the field of education, women now have the freedom to choose their majors at university, freeing themselves from the limitations that once held them back. This newfound autonomy allows women to pursue their passions and interests without restrictions.

Politically, women can now hold positions within the state, such as ministers or board members. This representation is crucial to ensure that women's voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process. Economically, women have more opportunities than ever to pursue careers that suit their talents and interests. They can lead labor groups or even lead companies, proving that gender should not be a barrier to success. In conclusion, these advancements show a positive shift towards gender equality and women's empowerment in all areas of life.

It is important to continue to strive for progress and advocate for equal rights for all individuals regardless of gender. This research on the changes that have occurred to Saudi women in the modern era, particularly in relation to King Salman's modernization efforts through Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, is considered quite good by the researcher. It explores the impact of these reforms on women and society as a whole. While we acknowledge the positive aspects of this study, we also recognize its limitations and gaps. By filling these gaps, a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of modernization efforts on women in Saudi Arabia can be achieved.

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