

# **Socioeconomic Transformation and the New Ways of Living among Women in the United Arab Emirates**

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Place of Fieldwork: United Arab Emirates

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## ● **Research Background**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is still a young country, having gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1971. Since the initiation of drilling in the 1960s, the UAE has dynamically developed within an extremely short period of time. Among the many kinds of development, the development of the education system has exerted the largest impact on Emirati women. The former president, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan emphasized the importance of female education. In the present day, Emirati women perform better in educational achievement compared with men and actively work in many sectors of society.

## ● **Research Purpose and Aim**

The purpose of my research is to examine the impacts of socioeconomic transformation on Emirati women—in particular, on their life styles and entrepreneurship. Although Emirati women live in a country that is extremely economically advanced, they seek to preserve the teachings of Islam and the important aspects of their role as women, such as in marriage and the management of the family. Recently, as greater numbers of Emirati women have advanced to higher education, such women have started looking for places where they can express themselves and their specializations. Entrepreneurship fulfills their desires; I believe it is an extremely important phenomenon to be aware of.

## ● **Results and Achievements of My Fieldwork**

During my fieldwork in Abu Dhabi, I stayed with Emirati families; this great experience enabled me to communicate with Emirati women on a more personal level regarding their lifestyles and aims and helped me to understand them and their situations better. I also spent time collecting references at libraries and research institutions and meeting researchers with excellent backgrounds in UAE economy and society. I was able to obtain very meaningful information and gained valuable first-hand experience by conducting fieldwork in Abu Dhabi.

## ● **Implications and Impacts on Future Research**

By exploring the new phenomenon of entrepreneurship among Emirati women, deepening my research into entrepreneurship among Emirati women is my absolute priority. Although there is broad awareness that the number of Emirati female entrepreneurs has increased, their personal life conflicts have not yet been widely discussed. Thus, my study elucidates these women's self-conflict between managing their personal,

family lives and their social lives as entrepreneurs.

the new phenomenon of entrepreneurship among Emirati women, deepening my research in Emirati women's entrepreneurship is my absolute priority in my study. Although the increase of the Emirati female entrepreneurs are widely aware, their personal life conflict is not yet widely discussed. Thus, in my study, it also should be examining their self conflict in how they manage their personal life with families and social life as entrepreneurs.



An Emirati Woman Making Traditional Crafts



An Emirati Man Demonstrating Emirati Maritime Tribal Culture



Emirati Women Selling Special Perfumes with Images of Famous Places in the UAE



Emirati Students Attending an Information Session for a Japanese Study Abroad Program