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## Social Security Requirements for Comprehensive Community Development: The Omani Experience

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### Abstract

*This study aims to identify the essential and necessary conditions for achieving social security, and to explore how the Omani experience has achieved comprehensive development by ensuring the social stability and social security for its citizens. The main issue of the study revolves around how the Omani experience of comprehensive community development can be changed through the social security system, focusing on the development, stability, and empowerment of the Omani citizen, and their subsequent contribution to building their society and nation. The study concluded that the most important conditions identified by Omani citizens for achieving social security are education and healthcare. It also found that the level of satisfaction with the quality of public services is high, and that Omani citizens generally feel socially secure. So, The importance of this research paper lies in its focus on one of the Arab development experiences, namely the Omani experience, which has emphasized the process of social security by highlighting its foundations, the outcomes it has achieved, and its future implications. This is particularly evident through the affirmation that investing in people is the fundamental pathway to achieve national renaissance.*

**Keywords:** Social Security, Community Development, Oman, Renaissance.

### Introduction

The issue of social security is regarded with great importance in contemporary societies due to its direct impact on the daily lives of individuals. However, the interest did not arise by chance; rather, it has historical roots that can be implicitly traced in the contributions of early philosophers and later sociologists who explored the emergence of capitalism and the development of modern societies. As societies become increasingly concerned with the development of social security, they simultaneously strive to eliminate threats to their social structures, examples of which are crime, delinquency, and poverty. These threats are continuously renewed due to the rapid changes in life, leading to the emergence of new social afflictions that can be socially observed, such as terrorism, social fragility, and poor social adaptation.

In the modern era, the second half of the twentieth century witnessed a significant phase in the growing interest in the issue of social security, as it began to take on a more clearly defined dimension within the scope of various sciences and disciplines. The phenomenon of globalization and the openness of markets and societies has highlighted development gaps in many countries around the world. Individuals in several societies have begun to suffer from the

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impacts of social risks that deeply affected human well-being and stability. Among these risks is the threat of cross-border epidemics, which threaten social security and cause numerous problems. Development policies and security efforts during the period from the 1960s to the 1980s witnessed high levels of dissatisfaction and discontent among members of society. It has been found that the way for countries to overcome the rise in public discontent was to focus on comprehensive development for individuals and communities, which makes them feel secure and stable in all aspects of their lives. In this context, the shifts towards democratization and globalization, as well as the move towards open economies, have further propelled the trajectories of social welfare in various societies. This can be achieved either by creating new pathways and systems of social care, or by reforming existing systems to contribute to development reforms and adopt social entitlements that ensure the achievement of human development for individuals.

The Omani society, which is the focus of this research paper, has a long developmental history and has gone various phases throughout its evolution. However, the pivotal stage that this study will focus on is the one that witnessed a radical transformation across all aspects of life, which called: the Renaissance, which began in 1970. Since then, the Sultanate of Oman has entered a completely new world, fundamentally different from the past in both its material and moral dimensions, a world characterized by realistic planning and the implementation of planned strategies. At the heart of these efforts was the development of the individual and society, and ensuring their security became a top priority for the political leadership. At that time, the modern government endeavored to forge a unified Omani nation that acknowledges the symbolism of a single state and rejects any form of tribal division. Additionally, it sought to adopt successful educational, economic, and social models, and adapt them to the unique characteristics of Omani society, thereby ensuring their implementation yielded tangible benefits for the citizens of Oman. This strategic approach rendered the Omani Renaissance practical, organized, and carefully planned, while fostering the unity of all Omanis within its framework.

The political vision has realized that achieving comprehensive development for the Omani individual, economically and socially, is a national duty considering that the human being is the most vital element in the development system, as it is its engine and its ultimate goal. This was emphasized by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said in his National Day speech in 1974, when he stated: "The third challenge we have faced, and still face, is no less important than the previous challenges, and that is the battle of construction, development, and progress. Our plan in this regard was ambitious, targeting the Omani citizen to make up for what he had missed. Its foundation was the human being, as he is the creator of development. Therefore, its aim must be his happiness and preparation, so that he may offer his country the best of what he can produce. From this perspective, we placed great importance on social development, starting with education, healthcare, food provision, and housing, all for the sake of the Omani citizen, our main asset in all the battles we undertake for Oman. Accordingly, this study aims to explore the nature of the Omani experience in the realm of social security.

## **Research Problem and Objectives**

### *Statement of the Problem*

Since the beginning of his existence on Earth, humankind has been confronting various risks and has made efforts to overcome them. Natural conditions were one of the greatest obstacles faced by early humans. Later, human existence evolved and became organized into the human society we know today, which is characterized by interaction and continuous social change. This

development, in turn, has led to the emergence of new needs in different areas of life, making it undoubtedly essential to unify collective efforts in order to meet the needs of society and its individuals, solve their problems, and ensure the provision of security for communities. At all levels and over the years, the ability of nations and societies to achieve security and protection from risks has been a major concern, increasingly growing with the evolution of threats. This necessitates safeguarding rights, freedoms, and the key factors essential for human life in order to achieve health, social, economic, and environmental stability for individuals.

The absence of security, the dominance of social fragility, and social marginalization cast a shadow over society as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to strive for a dynamic relationship between society and the individual, a relationship that aims for security and stability, based on organized planning to meet needs and fulfill desires. When examining the issue of social security from a broad global perspective, economic crises and other humanitarian crises, such as wars, represent a direct threat to social security due to their impact on local and global GDP growth. Consequently, these crises affect plans aimed at fostering community development. In times of crises, governments are often compelled to make difficult trade-offs in order to restore balance to the economic and social welfare of their citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic serves as a recent example, where there was an urgent need to provide treatment and vaccines, while simultaneously implementing preventive measures such as closing airports, land borders, seaports, and various businesses and workplaces. Undoubtedly, such measures have a direct negative impact on economic activity and income generation.

Recognizing that the individual is the ultimate target of social security policies and programs necessitates a greater focus on this key actor, along with a deep understanding of the elements that ensure their stability and protection. This understanding is essential for taking the necessary measures to enhance these elements. Within this recognition, which brings us closer to understanding the study's core issue, lies an important point: the necessity of understanding the mechanisms that achieve harmony between the state and its future plans, and the individual within it, particularly the importance of supporting and facilitating the individual's well-being. This can be considered the general framework within which the mechanism for achieving social security operates. Human development occupies a significant position in the plans and policies of social security, aiming to enable individuals to live their lives securely and confidently. This, in turn, encourages them to enhance their potential, improve their creativity, and contribute effectively to their communities as constructive factors.

Given that the focus of this study is the Sultanate of Oman, it can be noted, according to several indicators, that Oman ranks among the most advanced countries in terms of social security. According to the Comprehensive Development Statistics for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, issued by the GCC Statistical Center, Oman ranked first among GCC countries in the Social Support Network Index, with a percentage of 77.3%

In fact, the central issue of this study, namely social security within the Omani experience, must be approached as an integrated system encompassing all aspects of life in order to fairly evaluated. Investigating its distinctiveness requires referring to the two historical phases that the Sultanate of Oman has undergone: the Renaissance Phase (1970–2020) and the Renewal Phase (2020–present). This division is based on the significant shift that occurred in the governance system in 1970, when Sultan Qaboos bin Said assumed power and led the country until his death in 2020. He was succeeded by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, may God preserve him. It is important to note that there was no rupture or break between the two phases. Rather, there has

been a reaffirmation of the same developmental principle: that the development of the Omani individual and the fulfillment of their aspirations remain the highest purpose and ultimate goal of national development. Various developmental plans aim to enhance the quality of the social environment. Moreover, even economic development plans and programs no longer focus solely on achieving economic growth. Rather, they extend further to establish a model of sustainable development. Hence, it can be said that development projects and models direct their focus toward achieving social security standards with the highest possible quality

Among the key questions that require analysis and objective study is an understanding of the uniqueness of the Omani experience, which, although relatively recent, having begun in 1970, has achieved positive indicators in a relatively short period, particularly in the quality of social and protective services provided to Omani citizens. These sociological inquiries related to the social security experience in the Sultanate of Oman revolve around identifying the essential conditions and factors approved by the political leadership to achieve social security, and how this has been reflected in the country's development experience. Based on this, the main research problem can be defined through both its primary and subsidiary aspects, as follows:

*Main Research Question:*

What is the current status of the contribution of social security in the Sultanate of Oman to achieving comprehensive community development?

*Sub-Questions:*

- According to the Omani perspective, what are the necessary conditions for achieving a sense of social security?
- What is the relationship between the Omani citizen's social security and their contribution to development?
- How does comprehensive community development impact social security?

*Study Objectives:*

- To identify the conditions necessary for achieving social security.
- To understand the relationship between the sense of social security and stability, and the citizen's contribution to supporting the government's development efforts.
- To recognize the impact of the development experience on the realization of social security.

## **Methodology and Research Sample**

### **Methodology**

The current study adopts a methodology that combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches to obtain the study's findings and develop appropriate recommendations. The qualitative approach involves content analysis of the speeches delivered by Their Majesties during both the founding and renewal phases, in order to identify the key themes presented in the speeches as prerequisites for social security. In addition, the study analyzes a number of officially recognized statistical indicators issued by accredited international organizations.

On the other hand, the quantitative approach is represented by the application of a questionnaire distributed to a group of Omani citizens affiliated with Sultan Qaboos University, including both

males and females, across various categories, such as: academic faculty members, employees in technical and administrative bodies, and university students at different levels of their academic studies.

### *Research Sample*

The study was conducted on the community of Sultan Qaboos University, which consists of several categories of varying sizes. This required determining the size of each category and then applying a statistical formula to calculate the appropriate sample size. The initial population numbers for the study community are presented in the following table:

No.	Category	Total Number
1	Faculty Members	410
2	Staff	1758
3	Students	18,842
4	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,010</b>

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population

To extract the study sample from the original population, Stephen Thompson's formula was used. The study population was then divided into two categories: faculty members and administrative staff, totaling 2,168 individuals, and the student category, which includes 18,842 individuals. A 7% margin of error was applied to determine the sample size for each category.

Accordingly, the first category (faculty and staff) included 180 individuals. A proportional distribution method was used, where the sample size for each subgroup is calculated based on the relative weight it represents in the total study population. The following table shows the distribution of the sample size for the faculty and staff category:

N	Category	Population Size	Relative Weight	Sample Size
1	Faculty Members	410	19 %	34
2	Administrative Staff	1758	81 %	146
3	Students	18842	--	194

Table 2: Study Sample Size

## **The Relationship Between Social Security and the Renaissance Project in the Sultanate of Oman**

There is no doubt that the Renaissance era and the qualitative transformation it brought about in the history of the Sultanate of Oman, its impact on the building of the modern state, its position among leading nations globally, as well as its prominent emergence in the international community, was not a mere coincidence. Rather, it was deeply rooted in an intellectual and philosophical legacy, shaped in large part by the personality of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, may he rest in peace.

This legacy was cultivated through his early life experiences, which included extensive travel around the world, exposure to various global models, and interactions with influential figures during his studies and military training—most notably at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

These positive and forward-looking ideas, based on the connection between Oman's rich historical heritage, the high aspirations of its people, and the human and material resources with which God has blessed the Sultanate, called for serious and deliberate efforts to reshape modern Oman and launch a comprehensive process of transformation. This was essential to enable the country to claim its rightful place on the regional and international map, alongside its neighbors and the wider world.

When discussing the developmental experience of the Sultanate of Oman and observing its impact on the ground in the period following 1970, it can be described as one of the most distinguished models, both regionally and globally. The country has witnessed qualitative transformations across fundamental sectors of life. These transformations would not have been possible without the presence of clear policies and well-defined plans, based on a comprehensive vision with specific objectives set for each stage of development. There has been a firm belief that citizens, their capabilities, and investing in human capital represented the true foundation for sustainable success, and that material achievements are a natural outcome of such investment. This approach has led to a strong bond of mutual trust between the two key players in the equation: the state and the citizen.

As a result, Oman experienced a strategic shift in its development journey, both in terms of the general understanding and practical application of development planning methods. These efforts focused on addressing the core issues facing the state and its people, while establishing solid frameworks and programs to achieve the country's future vision.

Relying on well-crafted development policies and plans, which themselves represent one of the most important aspects of the organized and strategic efforts that characterized the Renaissance era, Oman was able to build a strong and solid foundation for achieving social security for its citizens. These policies were deliberately designed to be successful and have a positive impact on the lives of people across the Sultanate.

To ensure their success, these development strategies were marked by several key features, most notably geographically and demographically comprehensiveness. The policies were meant to reach every citizen, wherever they lived, without discrimination. Development, as envisioned by the political leadership and reflected in the national development plans, was considered a fundamental right of every citizen, one that must be enjoyed equally by all and delivered to every corner of the country.

These features, in essence, are the very conditions necessary to achieve social security. The absence of any of these elements would directly undermine the citizen's genuine sense of social well-being and safety. It is also worth noting that these characteristics, as pillars of the development process and conditions for social security, remained consistent across both the founding Renaissance and the Renewed Renaissance eras. This consistency reaffirms that comprehensive development has never been tied to a specific time or place, but is rather an ongoing, organized process driven by sound planning, clear objectives, and the commitment to the well-being of Omani citizens. The following section outlines these characteristics and their role in fostering social security:

A- Achieving political stability: Avoiding internal and external conflicts, and finding appropriate solutions to tensions without compromising security or stability, directly contribute to create a safe and secure environment. This in turn enhances internal life and attracts external attention in

terms of investment, commercial cooperation, and economic development, benefiting the country through business and industrial projects and their associated sectors.

Following the resolution of internal tensions in 1975, the political leadership worked diligently to preserve internal security, ensuring its presence throughout Oman, while also promoting national unity and building a society founded on equal rights and diversity, culturally, ethnically, and tribally. All these diversities were brought together under a unified and inclusive institution: the modern state, which set out to establish its rightful place on the international stage. Oman achieved formal political representation by joining key international and regional organizations, such as the United Nations and the Arab League in 1971 and The Gulf cooperation Council in (GCC) 1981. This development forged a clear identity for the Sultanate of Oman, establishing it as an integral part of the international community. It enhanced Oman's regional and global importance and legitimacy, enabling it to engage in vibrant and dynamic diplomatic dialogue and interaction. Consequently, political stability emerged as a critical instrument in Oman's Renaissance project and in the construction of a robust system of social security.

As a result of this methodical approach, political stability in Oman was pursued with a broad, future-oriented vision, recognizing that a well-organized political system and the ability to overcome existential threats serve as the solid foundation for achieving internal security and attracting international recognition for the Sultanate's structured and strategic governance.

B- Education and the Eradication of Illiteracy: The approach to education and its role in achieving development was rooted in a clear philosophy, which states that no development project can be sustained or trusted unless knowledge is spread, education is accessible, and all forms of ignorance and illiteracy are eliminated. This perspective was clearly articulated by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, may he rest in peace, during his address to the UNESCO General Conference in 2015, on the occasion of the organization's 70th anniversary. He stated:

“We attach great importance to education and strive to develop, improve, and elevate its standards, to modernize, deepen, and enrich knowledge, and to adapt it to a constantly changing world. This stems from the significance the Sultanate places on developing human resources and raising educated generations that can participate in the development process.

This quote confirms the national philosophy that considers education a foundational pillar of development. Ensuring its accessibility across all geographic areas, followed by continuous improvement through the development of educational institutions and the scholarship of Omani students abroad to study various sciences and disciplines, was considered a strategic investment. Such efforts undoubtedly contribute to shaping minds capable of actively participating in the development of society and serving the nation. Since 1970, education in the Sultanate of Oman has become one of the top priorities, with a particular emphasis demonstrated by the government's commitment to providing equal access to education for all segments of society and for both genders. The government then worked on developing curricula across various educational stages, incorporating values such as tolerance, peace, human rights, environmental conservation, and other significant principles. Through these educational reforms, the government aims to prepare a national workforce capable of serving the labor market and successfully adapting to the rapidly changing demands of life. In general, the philosophy of education in the Sultanate of Oman reflects inclusive and sustainable education, encourages scientific research, and seeks to build a knowledge-based society that can strike a balance between effective management of future skills and achieving development goals in Oman.

C. Rule of Law: One of the most defining features of advanced nations is the rule of law and the establishment of institutional governance, as the protection and preservation of rights is among the most essential pathways to achieving sustainable development. The establishment of judicial and legal institutions has a direct impact on fostering a sense of security and justice, reassuring citizens that their rights are safeguarded.

This, in turn, encourages active citizen participation in the service and development of their country. Moreover, the organized and lawful image the state projects to the outside world reinforces the perception that Oman is a nation governed by transparent, independent legal institutions, in which all residents on its land enjoys their rights under the full protection of the law.

D. Harmonizing Tradition with Modernity: When the Sultanate of Oman embarked on building its modern Renaissance and development project, it did so by anchoring itself in a rich cultural heritage that spans centuries. This heritage endowed Omani society and its citizens with a set of distinct traditional values. At the same time, Oman embraced a desire to open up to the outside world, drawing inspiration from global experiences, attracting skilled professionals, and incorporating modern technologies across key sectors such as education, healthcare, economy, and tourism.

E. Sustainable Development: At the international level, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are aspirations to improve human lives, adopted through peaceful and negotiated processes without any legally binding force. Governments have a responsibility to adapt and work to achieve these goals in collaboration with local and international partners.

For that reason, the Sultanate of Oman has made tremendous efforts to achieve a balance between economic growth, environmental preservation, and social justice, ensuring that the needs of the present generation are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Within its broader framework, comprehensive development in Oman seeks to enhance human well-being, recognizing the individual as the central pillar upon which the entire development project is built.

Sustainable development in Oman encompasses various dimensions, including:

- Environmental sustainability,
- Diversified and sustainable economic growth,
- Institutional development across state sectors,
- Effective international partnerships with the global community, and social development, particularly through improving education and healthcare, which in turn lead to enhancing social welfare, and promoting justice and equality across all segments of society.

This strategic blend of tradition and innovation aimed to improve the quality of life for individuals, while maintaining the unique cultural identity of the nation.

F. Future-Oriented Planning: A clear focus on the future emerged as a strategic vision that extended beyond the immediate realities of the post-1970 modern Renaissance era. From the very beginning, Oman recognized the importance of basing its development process on an organized framework based on short- and long-term planning. This strategic approach was translated into a series of Five-Year Development Plans, starting with the first plan implemented in 1976.

Later, long-term visions were introduced, including a series of short-term phase. The first of these long-term frameworks was Oman Vision 2020, followed by Oman Vision 2040. This approach, widely adopted by countries around the world, divides the development process into clearly defined phases, enabling strategic adaptability in response to global economic challenges, whether wars, pandemics, or other disruptions to major economic operations.

This approach allows Oman to remain resilient in the face of crises by adapting its financial and economic policies to suit the demands of each situation. The Five-Year Plans focus primarily on:

- Diversifying national income sources,
- Developing human capital,
- Strengthening the private sector, and ensuring agile and flexible responses to economic shocks.

All of these initiatives stem from a structured, phased development framework that reflects the government's planning philosophy, reinforcing Oman's commitment to sustainable, resilient growth and long-term national security.

**G. Promoting Participation in Decision-Making:** In modern societies, participation in decision-making is increasingly viewed as a key indicator of societal progress. It contributes significantly to achieve social justice, political stability, and enhances democratic engagement, allowing individuals to express their needs and opinions. This, in turn, fosters transparency between the government and citizens. The process of participation in decision-making among various segments of society provides policymakers with a greater ability to understand the positions of community members more deeply regarding issues that affect them. This enables the formulation of policies related to aspects of their lives, thereby making such effective participation a catalyst for enhancing social justice and driving positive social change that citizens need.

Participation in decision-making also plays a vital role in strengthening national unity and reinforcing social cohesion, as it makes citizens feel that their voices matter, especially regarding decisions that impact their daily lives. Furthermore, it supports human rights and social equity, since the ability to participate in governance is itself a fundamental human right.

This principle was echoed by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, who once stated: "We will never allow anyone to confiscate thought, regardless of who they are."

Participation in decision-making also improves the quality and relevance of policies, aligning them more closely with citizens' real needs and enhancing the government's ability to respond effectively to everyday challenges.

Recognizing the importance of this principle, Oman has worked to promote models of participatory democracy through various mechanisms, such as:

- The establishment of the Shura Council in 1981,
- The issuance of Royal Decree No. 116/2011, which created municipal councils across the Sultanate's governorates,
- And later, the issuance of the Municipal Councils Law in 2020, aimed at deepening democratic culture and promoting social and developmental stability.

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This experience has also been enriched by empowering women, whether by granting them the right to vote or to run for elections to various consultative bodies. In addition, public consultation is institutionalized through workshops, seminars, and national forums, especially during the formulation of Five-Year Development Plans or other strategic frameworks.

A prime example of this participatory model is Oman Vision 2040, which was developed through broad public engagement across all sectors and regions of the country. The vision's architects made deliberate efforts to reach citizens in every governorate, actively listening to their priorities and incorporating their perspectives into the long-term national agenda, as emphasized in the Oman Vision 2040 document.

H. Integrated Development: The diverse geography of the Sultanate of Oman, from desert, mountainous, and coastal regions to remote inland areas, posed significant challenges to delivering services equitably and ensuring that all citizens felt socially secure. These geographic obstacles were among the most pressing barriers to reducing development disparities and enabling people to fully exercise their rights to essential services.

In response, the government undertook substantial efforts to enhance service accessibility and create development opportunities across all governorates. This was achieved through comprehensive infrastructure projects, such as an extensive road and transportation network that successfully connected villages and regions, as well as the provision of electricity, water, healthcare, and education services. Additionally, Oman invested in supporting local industries and livelihoods, including agriculture, fishing, and various traditional crafts, enabling broader participation in the national economy and promoting inclusive development across diverse communities.

## **Discussion Results of the field study and Recommendations**

### *Discussion Results:*

The Tool included a set of questions of varying in format. These questions consisted of Likert scale (five-point), ranking questions based on the perceived importance by the study sample, and multiple-choice questions from a set of given options. The responses are presented and explained as follows:

N	Statements of the Axis	Mean	Standard Deviation	Medium	
1	I have prior knowledge of the term "social security."	3.34	0.963	High	3
2	Social security is involved in all aspects of daily life	3.97	0.722	High	1
3	In the absence of social security, individuals cannot interact effectively with their community.	4.09	0.693	High	2
4	Achieving social security relies on investing in individuals' capabilities, fostering work and creativity.	4.00	0.675	High	4
5	The Sultanate of Oman ranks	3.45	0.907	High	-

	highly on the global level in terms of social security.				
	Overall Average	3.77	0.792	Medium	5

Table 3: Relative Distribution, Means, and Standard Deviations Regarding Aspects and Indicators of Social Security in Daily Life

The results of the analysis of the questions based on the five-point Likert scale showed that all the items in the axis received a high evaluation score, with the exception of one statement. The statement "In the absence of social security, a person cannot interact with their community" received the highest mean score (4.09) with a standard deviation of (0.693). Meanwhile, the statement "I have prior knowledge of the term social security" recorded the lowest mean score (3.34) with a standard deviation of (0.963). This indicates the seriousness and importance of the issue addressed by the study, and that it is not widely repeated in social literature. Hence, it requires further focus and attention on related issues that study aspects of individual and societal stability.

Overall, the mean score of the manifestations and features of social security in the daily lives of Omani citizens was (3.77) with a standard deviation of (0.792), which reflects a high evaluation level.

Furthermore, we can rely on the numerical data and quantitative information presented in the previous table to interpret the high level of agreement expressed by the study sample with the items of this axis. There is consensus on the centrality of the issue of social security and its growing importance, which warrants more attention, as it has become an integral part of daily human life, present in nearly all aspects of day-to-day living. It is rare to find a society devoid of elements such as healthcare, education, economy, or any other essential component of development, except in communities afflicted by war or poverty, where the sense of social security is typically at a low level.

To understand the degree of interconnection between social security and the various aspects of daily life, it is important to note that developed societies have a broad understanding that any developmental project cannot succeed unless it incorporates the different pillars of social security. This has led us to pose the following question to identify the most important dimensions of social security from the perspective of the study sample. Participants were asked to rank the dimensions of social security according to their perceived importance from (1 to 8), where (1) represents the most important and (8) the least important.

No.	Dimension	Mean Rank	Standard Deviation
1	Education	6.15	2.172
2	Health	5.89	1.985
3	Justice	4.78	2.195
4	Economy	5.32	1.904
5	Public Security	4.41	2.141
6	Freedom	3.29	2.047
7	Human Development	3.80	2.066
8	Psychological Security	3.03	2.469

Table No. (4)

Based on the table, the mean rankings show that the research sample perceives education as the most important dimension of social security, with a mean score of 6.15. This perspective emphasizes the government's strategic planning, which has given the education sector a high level of attention. This prioritization has been clearly reflected in government policies through continuous plans for both the quantitative and qualitative development of education, an approach that has also been affirmed in the royal speeches, as indicated by the content analysis undertaken in this study.

Among other dimensions, the health sector came in second with a mean score of 5.89, followed by the economic sector in third place with a mean score of 5.32.

A closer sociological analysis of the responses to this question reveals that the research sample's prioritization of education, health, and economy as the most important dimensions for achieving advanced levels of social security highlights a key interpretation: these three sectors are fundamental services and rights that every individual must enjoy, regardless of financial, geographical, or other considerations. For example, it would be unjust to deprive a person of access to education or healthcare and then question why they feel marginalized, excluded, or burdened with negative emotions.

An in-depth analysis of the royal speeches, as conducted by this study, makes it clear that Oman's development philosophy, since its early stages, has considered education and health to be foundational elements for empowering its citizens. This alignment is further evidenced by the participants' answers to the previous question.

This idea was notably emphasized in the speech of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos on the National Day of 1972, where he underlined the importance of education at the time, even if it had to take place under the shade of trees. This powerful statement highlights the necessity of initiating education through any means and in any place, to begin eradicating illiteracy and spreading education for nation-building. It also reflects a rejection of the notion that education should be limited to males. Instead, girls must have access to educational institutions and receive their full share of learning, as they represent half of society.

Moreover, legislation has reinforced these fundamental rights. For instance, the Child Law includes specific legal provisions aligned with these priorities. Chapter Three, which addresses health rights, affirms the child's right to healthcare and obligates the state to ensure access to the highest standard of free healthcare. Similarly, the chapter concerning education rights states that every child has the right to free education in public schools, and that basic education is mandatory for all children.

It is noteworthy that the responses provided by the study sample reflect the participants' views on the most essential needs and prerequisites for building a strong foundation of social security. In this context, it is important to stress that the other proposed options are no less significant than those already analyzed. Each of them plays a pivotal and sensitive role in safeguarding society and supporting the stability of its social actors. No factor can be excluded, as all dimensions are interlinked and influence one another in a continuous dynamic process, where numerous social interactions take place and impact society. These impacts may occur through the mutual influence of social systems and dimensions within the society, or through the way these dimensions respond to changes occurring in the societal environment that underpins human life.

After reviewing and interpreting the responses identifying the most important dimensions of social security, we turn to an examination of daily life in Omani society and the distinctive manifestations of social security observed by the participants, those they believe should be strengthened in order to contribute to improving the quality of life for Omani citizens and achieving high levels of social stability. Our daily lives are filled with impactful social interactions that, in one way or another, reflect on human livelihoods and relationships, both among individuals and between individuals and the state and its institutions. This is what we aim to reach through discussing the responses to the question, as shown in the title of the following table, which highlights the aspects that need to be supported in order to enhance social security.

<b>Aspect</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Family Stability	216	21.4 %
Rule of Law	91	18.98%
Economic Well-being	120	11.92%
Community Participation	161	16.00%
Social Solidarity	157	15.70%
Social Protection	161	16.00%

Table No. (5): Daily Aspects of Social Security That Should Be Supported in Society

The respondents' answers in the previous table indicate that the highest percentage of responses (21.47%) emphasize that family stability is the most prominent aspect of daily life that embodies social security and should be strengthened in society. This is due to its positive impact on increasing the sense of stability. Conversely, the absence of family stability poses a threat to the security of individuals in society. This finding is implicitly consistent with the study by, whose respondents considered family disintegration the greatest obstacle to achieving social security, along with the lack of equal opportunities and the spread of unemployment. Furthermore, the responses show that the next most important aspect of social security that should be supported in society, following family stability, is the rule of law, which received a response rate of 18.98%.

About 16% of the responses pointed to the importance of community participation and social protection, both of which are aspects that are no less important than the ones previously mentioned. Their presence in the daily lives of Omani citizens plays a significant role in achieving self-fulfillment and enhancing the sense of individual value. Therefore, these aspects should be supported and promoted through official channels and institutions.

The discussion on the importance of social protection leads us to connect this finding with the study by Estevez-Abe, Iversen, & Soskice, which emphasized the necessity of implementing social protection in multiple directions, whether for individuals who are employed and for the broader public, to protect against the threat of unemployment. This approach encourages employees to invest more in their skills and capacities, driven by the direct personal benefits such development brings. At the same time, the importance of applying social protection policies becomes even more evident, as they raise levels of ambition and encourage investment in personal and practical skills among those entering the labor market.

As a result, individuals become more prepared and competitive, and develop a sense of security against the fear of unemployment, thanks to the prior training and skills they have acquired. The

study explains that one of the methodologies adopted in development policies of advanced countries is focused on supporting the formation and development of skills that enable individuals to engage in entrepreneurship and build their own economic activities. This, in turn, helps reduce the burden on public sector employment and eases pressure on the state.

The study also discussed the role of social protection within institutions, explaining that its provision to employees is an indicator of the institution's strength and competence in its field. Modern economies rely on the development of core and future-oriented skills, which are essential for success in a constantly evolving labor market marked by the ongoing introduction of new technologies.

In the specific context of Omani society, within which this study is conducted, our sociological interpretations of the data provided by the study sample must take into account the unique cultural and social characteristics of the local community, particularly with regard to family cohesion. This cohesion is deeply rooted in the foundational principles of Islamic teachings, as well as in long-standing customs and traditions. Both sources place strong emphasis on the sanctity and necessity of maintaining family stability, avoiding fragmentation, and reinforcing the central role of the family in societal development.

The Omani family structure provides its members with a wide range of psychological and social functions, making it a critical pillar upon which social security can be built and sustained. As such, it is a natural outcome that individuals raised within stable, cohesive families, where emotional and psychological security prevail, are more capable of effectively confronting the multifaceted challenges of daily life than those whose families suffer from divorce, disintegration, or any form of instability.

In the same context, when addressing the concept of social protection and its necessity to encompass various groups, such as workers, children, and the elderly, it becomes evident that social protection is not only a fundamental need but also a hallmark of societal progress and development. It plays a critical role in safeguarding individuals' lives and protecting them from the risks associated with economic and financial fluctuations.

In this regard, reference is made to the Social Protection Law issued in the Sultanate of Oman under Royal Decree No. 52/2023, which stands as one of the most significant developmental initiatives aimed at improving citizens' quality of life and reinforcing social justice. This law includes provisions for financial support, social care services, training, and employment programs. It identifies multiple groups eligible for monthly financial grants, such as the elderly, children, persons with disabilities, orphans, widows, and other qualifying categories.

Moreover, the law introduces a restructured social protection system, including a revamped retirement system for employees in both public and private sectors, fundamentally different from its previous framework. The overarching goal is to ensure a dignified life for citizens while protecting workers' rights and preventing their violation by employers.

After examining the key prerequisites and components necessary for achieving social security, as well as the daily life manifestations related to the core issue of this study, an important question arises, that deepens our understanding of how citizens in the Sultanate of Oman perceive social security. This question pertains to the impact that the realization of social security has on society, and how it is reflected in individuals' lives through measurable indicators across various aspects of daily living. Exploring this issue allows us to identify the most significant areas affected and to determine where these impacts are most visible within the hierarchy of

citizens' day-to-day living conditions.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Advancement in the Education System	214	19.59
Decrease in Crime Rates	212	19.41
Improvement in Health Services	186	17.03
Existence of Social Protection Systems	182	16.66
Justice	169	14.47
Improved Income Levels	129	11.81

Table No. (6): Indicators Reflecting the Level of Progress in Achieving Social Security in the Sultanate of Oman

The results of the statistical analysis showed that the highest percentage of responses (19.59%) identified the advancement of the education system as the most important indicator reflecting progress in achieving social security in the Sultanate of Oman. This finding reinforces earlier findings concerning the key dimensions of social security, where the education sector was also ranked first.

Additionally, 19.41% of participants indicated that a decrease in crime rates is the second most vital indicator of progress in this area. In third place, with 17.03% of participants, was the improvement of health services. This reflects the critical importance of the healthcare sector and the need for its continuous quantitative and qualitative development in citizens' lives. Notably, the health dimension was also ranked second, after education, in the previous question regarding the most significant aspects of the social security system.

In fact, the noticeable degree of interconnection between the dimensions and domains of social security, discussed earlier in this study, and the indicators that reflect it, offers a valuable analytical lens through which to interpret the current findings. From our perspective, the tangible progress and transformation in the level of education in the Sultanate of Oman has played a significant role in building an informed society across its various components and demographic groups.

This development has fostered a culture of greater awareness and understanding among citizens in their daily lives and interactions. It is also one of the key factors contributing to the decline in crime rates. In an educated society, a culture that respects for the rule of law. Citizens are increasingly aware the role of law enforcement and judicial institutions, and they tend to seek recourse through these formal channels in a civil and orderly manner. This reflects a sophisticated societal mindset in which people view official legal institutions as the rightful bodies responsible for enforcing laws and ensuring equality, thereby reducing the reliance on informal or primitive methods that could lead to criminal activity or societal harm.

As previously discussed in this paper, we presented the political leadership's vision for the education and healthcare sectors and their central role in the leadership's strategic philosophy. Achieving progress in these sectors has been pivotal to the realization of both social security and comprehensive development. Equally important is the analysis and interpretation of the decline in crime rates and the overall sense of safety experienced by citizens, as these provide deeper insight into the conditions required for establishing social security.

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In modern societies, the level of personal safety can be read as a vital and highly sensitive indicator, that reflects the strength of the rule of law and institutional governance. This institutional foundation was laid by Oman's planned leadership during the early stages of the Renaissance era, with the goal of ensuring justice, equality, and effective control over any threats that might disrupt the security and stability of individuals in any form.

A sociological interpretation of this phenomenon highlights the impact of social regulation mechanisms, particularly the application of laws and the independence of judicial institutions. The very existence and accessibility of judicial and security institutions at various levels contribute significantly to reducing crime rates. Social control, whether through formal or informal mechanisms, plays a crucial role in regulating behavior at both individual and collective levels.

In this context, we focus on formal mechanisms, where legal institutions define deviant behavior, reinforce adherence to norms, promote legal awareness, deter violations, and facilitate rehabilitation. This is clearly observable in Omani society through the presence of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, the widespread public prosecution offices across all governorates, and the continuous development of the police force. These bodies do not merely serve punitive functions, but also perform vital preventive roles by raising legal awareness and educating the public about laws and the consequences of violating them. Most importantly, they contribute to fostering a secure and stable environment that actively prevents the emergence of crime.

What has been discussed throughout this paper, regarding the dimensions of social security, its manifestations in daily life, and the indicators that reflect its realization in society, can also be understood in light of the lived reality. These aspects are not abstract ideals, but rather tangible services actively delivered across those very dimensions and manifestations. They are evident in educational and healthcare institutions, economic planning, judicial and legal systems, and broader aspects of human development, among other areas essential to daily life.

Accordingly, the performance and quality of these services can ultimately be assessed through the lived experiences and perceptions of Omani citizens. In essence, the true measure of social security lies in how individuals feel about the effectiveness, accessibility, and fairness of the services provided to them.

In this regard, the digital transformation of government and the implementation of e-government in the Sultanate of Oman in recent years have marked a significant shift. This transformation has resulted in the adoption of structured, digitally aligned methods for service delivery across various state institutions. These institutions were themselves designed with an organized framework ensuring clear divisions of labor and well-defined responsibilities for each entity.

This shift has contributed to enhancing the quality of public services by improving accessibility, ensuring services are available around the clock and overcoming geographic limitations. It has also simplified procedures, accelerated processes, increased transparency, and promoted community participation through direct communication channels. All these efforts aim to improve service quality, making interactions with state institutions more efficient and user-friendly.

Building on this, can observe considerable progress in public service, including developments in various levels of education, comprehensive healthcare, infrastructure services, and logistics sectors such as transportation, through road networks, land, sea, and air ports. Continuous improvement projects and the expansion of these sectors' capacities have had a tangible impact

on strengthening the economy and advancing the broader goal of comprehensive development.

Additionally, the increased levels of safety and stability, as reflected in earlier survey responses indicating declining crime rates, have played a crucial role in attracting foreign investment to Oman. This is a highly significant economic factor, as it enhances overall economic efficiency and reflects the modern organizational capacity that characterizes the Sultanate of Oman today.

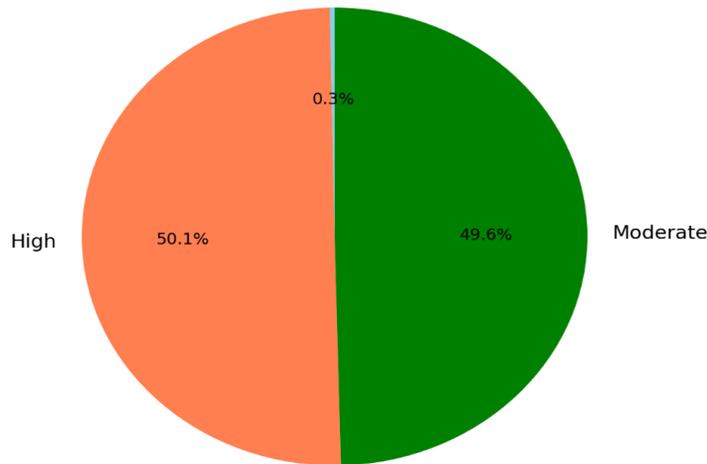


Figure No. (1): Level of Perceived Social Security

The results illustrated in the previous figure detail the responses of the study sample regarding their perceived level of social security. As shown, the percentages are very close between those who reported a high level of perceived social security (50.1%) and those who reported a moderate level (49.6%) in the Sultanate of Oman. Only a very small percentage (0.3%) of respondents expressed a low sense of social security.

This overall perception, ranging from moderate to high, among the study participants reflects a reality that aligns with findings reported by various international organizations. For instance, the Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) ranked Oman among the top five Arab countries in human development, ranking 54th globally, in the category of Very High Human Development.

Additionally, statistics from the global database Numbeo also placed Oman in advanced positions with regard to human development and quality of life. Oman ranked first in the Arab world and eighth globally on the Quality-of-Life Index, topping the list of Arab countries, followed by the United Arab Emirates, which ranked second regionally and fifteenth globally.

This result also reflects a high level of satisfaction with the government's policies in providing essential and public services, a point previously discussed when interpreting the study participants' responses to various questions in this section. These responses indicated satisfaction with the development of the education sector, a strong sense of security, low crime rates, and the government's significant investment in social protection initiatives.

Moreover, the role of political stability must not be overlooked, as it plays a critical part in reinforcing the overall sense of social security. In addition to institutional and political factors, the unique characteristics of Omani society and its people also contribute significantly. These include deeply rooted social traditions that promote strong interpersonal bonds, cooperation,

solidarity, and overall social cohesion—further supporting the foundations of a secure and stable society.

In summary, the data analyzed throughout this study clearly indicate the tangible and visible presence of social security in the daily life of Omani citizens. There is a widespread sense and collective awareness among the population that the state, through its developmental plans, is actively and purposefully working to establish and reinforce social security on solid foundations.

This conclusion is reflected in the responses of participants across various questionnaire items, as well as in their generally favorable evaluations of essential services, including healthcare, education, social protection programs, public services, and the rule of law and its institutions, along with the notably low crime rates. Together, these elements are not only key conditions for achieving social security, but also fundamental pillars upon which Oman's national renaissance is being built.

### **Recommendations**

- Develop strategic-level security programs that extend beyond domestic concerns and take into account various global challenges and critical issues facing certain regional countries, in order to prevent the spillover of such issues into the Sultanate, which is regarded as a politically stable destination.
- Preserve and further enhance the achievements made in the fields of healthcare, education, security, and social protection, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in line with the evolving needs of each stage of development. Progress should not stop, as social life is constantly changing and requires ongoing adaptation.
- Address emerging threats resulting from contemporary developments, as they pose new risks to social security. Detecting and responding these threats should be a shared responsibility between security agencies and specialists in social research and analysis. For example, in today's world of rapid gratification and financial ambition, some groups may seek shortcuts to wealth and social mobility through illegitimate means, such as drug trafficking, crimes related to sex, or money laundering.
- Conduct public opinion surveys to measure citizens' perceived level of social security, leveraging the capabilities of the National Centre for Statistics and Information. These data are useful for identifying potential shifts resulting from global economic and social conditions, especially during times of crisis. These insights would also help assess the effectiveness of government actions aimed at mitigating negative impacts on the social stability experienced by citizens in the Sultanate of Oman.

### **Conclusion**

The Omani experience in establishing social security demonstrates a remarkable evolution that has become increasingly evident in daily life throughout the various phases of the nation's Renaissance. The conditions that prevailed before the 1970s and the beginning of the foundational development phase differ significantly from the present reality. At the same time, new challenges have emerged that require practical and non-traditional solutions. The expectation that future challenges may be even more complex was recognized early by the political leadership, prompting a structured administrative and political transformation in modern Oman, one that has been crucial to ensuring both societal stability and citizens' security.

The development of the education and healthcare sectors, the recognition of social security as a non-negotiable human right, and the modern construction of state institutions, striking a balance between tradition and modernity, have all played vital roles in laying a strong foundation for social security. These efforts have enabled Oman to engage with the international community while preserving the unique values of its national identity. As a result, a cohesive developmental experience has been established, in which the state and citizen are not separated by barriers. On the contrary, citizens are fully aware that they are at the heart of national development plans. This awareness inspires them to actively contribute to the service of their country and community, understanding that development is a shared endeavor and not the sole responsibility of those in positions of authority.

As global challenges continue to intensify, whether through wars, economic crises, or other destabilizing factors, it becomes increasingly essential to place the individual at the center of both national and international policy agendas. A critical question that must be addressed in a practical and actionable way include: What global efforts are necessary to envision the future of human security, and how can the risks facing individuals, particularly in societies suffering from instability and weakened or absent social security, be effectively mitigated?

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We confirm that there is no conflict of interest in either authorship or publication.

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improving their performance and implementing digital transformation requirements, reaching 77% by the end of November 2024. Meanwhile, the average performance of the National Digital Transformation Program reached 73% by the end of November of the previous year, compared to 53% in 2023. Additionally, there has been success in digitizing approximately 1,700 services out of a total of 2,523 services targeted for digitalization by the government by the end of 2025

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