

**Abstracts of Arabic Researches:**

- **Prof. Dr. Azza Mostafa Elkahkey** - *Umm Al-Qura University*  
**Andhar Hilal Al-Hussaini** - *Umm Al-Qura University*  
**Using of Social Media in Interpretation of Islamic Provisions (Sharia) and their Impact on Saudi Public Knowledge and Trends, within the Framework of the Cognitive Dissonance Theory** 7
- **Associate Prof. Dr. Soad Mohamed Mohamed Elmasry** - *Kafrelsheikh University*  
**The Role of YouTube in Developing Media Activities among Educational Media Students: Field Study** 9
- **Associate Prof. Dr. Rasha Abdel Rahman Hegazy Ibrahim** - *Al-Shorouk Academy*  
**Massive Data of Online Shopping Sites Users and its Role in Privacy Violation: Field Study on the Unified Theory of Technology Acceptance and the Communication Privacy Management Theory** 10
- **Associate Prof. Dr. Riham Marzouk Ibrahim Abdel Dayem** - *Al-Azhar University*  
**Concept of the Widow as Reflected in the Egyptian Drama: Taht El Wesaya Series as a Model** 11
- **Dr. Rasha Mohamed Morsey** - *Umm Al-Qura University*  
**Haddel Kamal Abulaziz Maghrabi** - *Umm Al-Qura University*  
**Awareness of Workers in Saudi Non-profit Institutions of the Role of Public Relations in Promoting their Services: A Field Study on Charities in the Regions of (Riyadh - Dammam - Jeddah)** 12
- **Dr. Mohamed Salih AbdAllah Osman Abdelhadi** - *Jazan University*  
**Values of National Belonging in the Videos Clips that Dealt with the Events of the Sudanese December 2018 Revolution: A survey Study Applied to a Sample of Media Professors in Sudanese Universities** 13
- **Dr. Heba Ahmed Rizk Senid** - *Al-Azhar University*  
**The Dependence of the Egyptian Public on Arab News Satellite Channels to Obtain Information about the Climate Change Conference and its Relationship to its Level of Knowledge of Climate Change: A Feld Study** 14
- **Dr. Suhad Ali Osman Abdullah, Fatimah Saleh Alowayyid, Maryam Abdulrahman Mangri, Afaf Mohsen Dagdagi, Deema Ibraheem Aswani, Walaa khalid Barhim** - *King Khaled University*  
**The Influence of Awareness Treatment of Infographic Clips in Reducing the Risks of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)** 15
- **Ayad Mesfer Saad Albogami** - *Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University*  
**The Impact of Participation in University Theater on some Personal Traits of Students** 17

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# **Using of Social Media in Interpretation of Islamic Provisions (Sharia) and their Impact on Saudi Public Knowledge and Trends, within the Framework of the Cognitive Dissonance Theory**

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## **Abstract**

This study aimed to identify using of Social Media in explanation of Islamic provisions and their influence on the knowledge and directions of Saudi population, in the framework of cognitive dissonance. In addition, to demonstrate the degree of public interest in knowing the Islamic provisions (Sharia) from social media and the degree of their dependence on them.

Furthermore, to determine the most important method used, to reveal the most prominent motives and trends of the public towards their usage in clarifying of Islamic provisions. Moreover, to show the degree of validity of those interpretations and their impact on the public, to measure the level of cognitive dissonance experienced by them in the interpretation of Islamic provisions via social media, and to present suggestions that contribute to reduce this phenomenon. The samples were taken from the Saudi population (about 200 people) who are using social media. Correspondingly, the researcher used descriptive approach and questionnaire tool to collect data .

### **The Study results are as follows:**

- 1- Around 43% of people, are keen to know the Islamic provisions from Social Media slightly and about 43% are keener compared to the others.
- 2- 46.5% of people are keener to depend on Social Media in interpreting the Islamic provisions while around 32% and 21.5 % are less keen respectively.
- 3- It is clear that YouTube is the most important application of Social Media which is used among research samples, followed by Twitter and Telegram respectively.
- 4- The Study shows that the most significant motive for using Social Media in explanation of Islamic provisions is that it is easier to be used, which represented by 90.8 %, followed by the need to know the Islamic provisions by a percentage of 84.3.



- 5- 71.5% believe that the interpretations of Sharia provisions through Social Media are correct to some extent, followed by 13.5% who perceive that they are very accurate, and 15% who do not realize it as correct.
- 6- The percentage of the research sample's feeling of cognitive dissonance arose to a moderate degree of 59.5%, followed by a large degree of 20.5%.

### **Study Hypotheses Test results:**

- 1 - It was found that there were no statistically significant differences in the level of cognitive dissonance in the interpretation of Islamic provisions (Sharia) among the research sample, according to the intensity of exposure to interpretations of Islamic provisions (Sharia) on social networking sites.
- 2 - The results showed that there were no statistically significant differences in the level of cognitive dissonance in the interpretation of Islamic provisions (Sharia) among the research sample, according to (Gender, Age, Level of Education).

**Keywords:** Social Media, Islamic Provisions (Sharia), Saudi Public Trends, Cognitive Dissonance Theory.