

## Some social factors Related to level of Environmental health Awareness in Rural Egypt

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**Abstract:** The research aimed to identify the impact of some social factors in age, educational level, family size, the degree of cultural openness- communication, and economic level to the level of environmental health awareness of the respondents. In addition to identifying the most important programs from which to create a clean environment conducive to increase productivity and per capita income, and then the advancement of society economically, and the achievement of social welfare for members of the rural community. The results showed that the mean scores for level of environmental health awareness by the respondents is estimated at 78.4 degrees of kidney estimated 1593 degrees, which reflects the low level of health behavior and health practices that can maintain the health of the individual and the environment. As it turns out; there is a significant correlation between the age Category, educational level, family size, level of education - communication (independent variables) and level of Environmental health awareness (dependent variable). Also found that about 62.7% of the respondents engaged in basic agriculture as a profession, while 37.3% engaged in work other than farming as a career major going about them at the side to work as an agricultural high school. The study recommended the need to work to raise the economic level and living standards of rural households, and interest in environmental health and dissemination of health education and environmental awareness among the population of the rural sector, as well as concern for the individual and the family environment and provide the necessary health to protect them from the face of dangers and diseases.

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### Introduction:

It adopts the well-being and prosperity of the country and its recovery economically and socially to the extent to which their people health, which depends upon its production and efficiency in various fields. The environment is the most important factors affecting the health and illness of the individual. The environment is not conducive to the spread of health and other communicable disease. It is also poverty, malnutrition, housing bad, fatigue overload, psychological crises, lack of awareness, and unhealthy behavior of the most important factors leading to the occurrence of disease and mortality. In spite of the multiplicity of the views of the expert's meeting and the economy and the environment on the problems of population and the extent of the reflection of population growth on the path sustainable development, but they agreed that the population problem and its relationship to consumption and production, environment and development can not be ignored or negative stance towards it (14-1994).

The environment is an integral and important component of the health program of the community. In fact, is a program of Environmental Health Sanitation of the most important factors that lead to low prevalence of disease and reduce health problems. The environment around which to live,

affected by and affects the environmental factors in this area include the following: family environment and is in the size of their resources and capabilities, the home environment and is in housing, ventilation and safe drinking water and a means of disposal of human excreta and animal litter, community environment in which they live in rights, which are represented in the provision of services, transportation, and housing health.

**Research problem:** represent damage caused by the environmental pollution barrier in order to achieve comprehensive development continued, as a result of wasting the wealth of natural and human, which affect the national income. There is no doubt that the individual affects the environment in which they live and influenced by them. Statistics show that 56% of the population living in the Egyptian countryside, which suffers from many problems, is reflected on the individual and society (3-1994). The community is still rural and the Egyptian village suffering from social and economic problems and much health, although directing care for this sector. Some studies suggest as to the lack of programs, and services directed to the rural sector, which increased the problems of health and the environment in this important sector (9: 1994).

**The research aims: The research aims to identify:**

1 - Some social factors of the respondents in terms of age, educational level, family size, openness, cultural communication, the economic level of the respondents (independent variables)

2 - Level of health awareness - the environmental category of respondents in terms of the level of healthy behavior and good health practices to maintain the health of the environment (dependent variable) with regard to the state of health to housing and health habits of respondents and their families.

3 - To study the correlation between the level of health awareness - in the category of environmental subjects and a group of independent variables.

**Research method:** the method involves research to clarify the concepts for each of the research variables, research, and research as well as assumptions that the research and finally a method of data collection and analysis of primary research.

**First: the concepts of research:**

**Age of respondents:**

There is a close relationship between age class of the rural population and the degree of health awareness to control environmental pollution in the environment. The age of senior farmers used to practice certain customs and traditions, which would damage health and the environment and cause pollution. It is intended that the variable in this category search age at the time of research estimate years to the nearest year.

**Education Level:**

There is a relationship between the degree of education and health awareness of rural families. The spread of literacy lead to the low level of health awareness and lack of attention to disease prevention or delay of treatment (9:1994). This means variable to know the educational status of quested at time of search terms were illiterate or literate or of any stage of formal education, were expressed in numeric values.

**The size of the family:**

The family is the basic unit to be the structure of society, and measured the strength or weakness of society as a whole strongly or weakness of the family of its constituent. The family is the field, who practiced human society in which social relationships, a tree which is planted in each of its members, traditions and customs, ideals and behavior patterns different. Family size intended in this study means all individuals which have dependents and live Category social and economic one.

**The degree of cultural openness - communication:**

Means to communicate urban degree to an individual outside the social system (23:1969), include mass media such as radio, television, newspapers, magazines, flyers, brochures, health and used for the dissemination of culture and awareness of environmental health among the people and good practices to maintain the health of the individual and the environment. Moreover, one of the ways of health education, which also is including film and video cassette tapes. And intended openness cultural - communication over the exposure of respondents to the elements of culture, immaterial and material in terms of the extent to which respondents to the mass communication represented in radio and television, newspapers and magazines, as well as the degree of frequency of respondents in urban areas and the purpose of the frequency it has been the expression of this variable with numeric values.

**Economic level - living conditions:** The economic level as well as education and family size of the factors affecting the health problems (3:1994). And can be expressed in numeric values of this variable in terms of home ownership, fashionable home rations, which were acquired by Category in the home, the diversity of sources of income Category, Category average income compared with an average income of the rest of the family in the village.

**Level of health awareness - Environmental:** The variable's central, the ultimate objective of the research to discover factors associated with it and used as independent variables, to identify the level of behavior for good health, and health practices of the respondents to maintain the health of the environment with regard to the two-dimensional key representatives of the level of health awareness - environmental variable composite includes: health status of the dwelling, the prevailing habits, the behavior of healthy respondents and their families.

**The health status of residence:** Identify the health status of residence of respondents and their families and existing conditions unhealthy and practices leading to contamination of the environment within the home and attitudes in terms of availability of electricity, clean water, sanitation, ventilation home, housing density, the presence of the fold of cattle inside or outside the home, the degree of accumulation compost, ponds and marshes at the house. Prevailing customs and health behavior: It means the customs that are reflected in the behavior of the subjects and their families in some everyday situations, as well as identify the views of respondents and their attitudes to certain phrases related to personal behavior and environmental health.

With regard to the habits of boys swimming and washing utensils in the canals, and behavior, who is under examination by the injury when a family member for any of the endemic or infectious diseases or other. And to identify the causes that may be responsible for the spread of the disease in the villages, its affiliates, in terms of their point of view, the extent of the complaint from the proliferation of flies and insects, the extent of giving them vaccinations assessed for their children vaccinated subjects and his family when the spread of infectious disease, as well as the opinions of the respondents in connection with the few words in terms of preference over the use of municipal recipes, take care of cleanliness and beauty of the village, the use of rituals and other popular customs prevailing among the people of the countryside.

**II: research variables**

The independent variables are as follows: age of the respondents, educational level, family size, cultural openness - communication, economic level and living standard of the respondents. While the dependent variable is the level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents in terms of the level of proper health behavior and health practices of respondents to maintain health of the environment.

**Third: The research hypothesis**

Light of the above research suggests the existence of correlation between the level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents as the dependent variable and each of the independent variables mentioned above. Has been tested this hypothesis in zero image "that there is no relationship between the level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents as the dependent variable and each of the independent variables mentioned above.

**IV: sample**

The research on primary data collected through the questionnaire achieved the goal of the research. The total sample 150 Quested of the rural population was selected through a random sample of

villages (Kafr Ashma, Srsena, Mitt shhala) in ELshohda center, Menofia Government.

**Fifth: data collection and analysis**

The research data depend on the priority that has been collected through the questionnaire, personal interviews. The questionnaire is designed to achieve the goal of the research. I have been using percentages and averages, and frequency distributions, simple correlation (R) in the data analysis to study the relationship between the dependent variable and independent variables.

**Results and discussion:**

**Social factors, communication and economic development of the respondents**

1 - age of the subjects: It is clear from Table (1) that more than half of the respondents located in the age groups representing senior age and who are between the ages of (40 - more than 60 years) 'It numbered about 89 persons whom and by an estimated 59.3% and indicates that the majority of respondents, their customs and traditions associated with Baltcassel and other customs associated with the contribution of increased pollution and Mahafezaly environment. And agree that the result with the findings of some studies in that with increasing age than control subjects in the degree of environmental pollution. Also agrees that the result is the logic of scientific terms get used to top the age of farmers on the exercise of certain customs and traditions that will bring about pollution.

The results of the search indicated that the importance of environmental awareness and related practices and healthy behavior among the rural population in general and the elderly in particular, in order to create a healthy and clean environment. The mean average age of respondents is about 57 years. The results of the estimates that there is significant correlation between age and level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents, in terms of the level of healthy behavior and good health practices to maintain the health of the environment and the estimated value of the simple correlation coefficient (t) about 0.041.

Table (1) The distribution of respondents according to the categories age

categories age	number	%
20-29	25	16.7
30-39	36	24
40-49	43	28.6
50-59	28	18.7
60>	18	12
total	150	100

**Source:** Compiled and calculated from field research

**2 – Education Level:** The increasing Educational level of the population a portlets important to extend the person's scientific knowledge related to environmental health, which reflected the absorption and adoption of practices and new ideas, as well as to create trends in personal high standard of behavior for good health, and health practices among them. As can be seen that the individual that receives a share of the education be more responsive to the changing practices of the old and bad habits and adoption of practices that help reduce environmental pollution in order to create a healthy environment clean of pathogens and vectors. It is estimated in Table (2) that more than half of the respondents was illiterate (not Inalo any premium from education), while the percentage which has completed university education

to only 2% of the respondents. It is estimated that the mean level of education respondents about 2.5 degrees. As it turns out; there is no significant relationship between a level of education and level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents, with an estimated value of the simple correlation coefficient by about -0.046. The results showed in table (2) the spread of literacy among the respondents as it was found that more than half of the respondents were illiterate (52.7%). Some studies indicate a relationship between the degree of education and health awareness of the rural family, the proliferation of illiteracy leads to low awareness of health and lack of attention to disease prevention or treatment is delayed.

Table (2) The distribution of subjects, according to the educational

Level Education	number	%
illiterate	79	52.7
Reads and writes	39	26
Primary	12	8
Preparatory	9	6
Secondary	8	5.3
College	3	2
total	150	100

**Source:** Compiled and calculated from field research

**3 - The size of the family:** The family is the basic unit is the structure of society, and measured the strength or weakness of society as a whole strongly or weakness or weakness of its constituent families. The family is the field, who practiced human society in which social relationships, and which instilled in each of its members, traditions and customs, ideals and behavior patterns different.

These results showed the high number of children per family, where the arithmetic average of the number of children 6 son / daughter per household, while the average capacity of family 9 Items per family for a number of individuals living in the same unit of living and live a life of social and economic one, which refers to the congestion of units living to the families of the subjects and the impact on their lives and health. As shown by the presence of Altkadiwat correlation was found between the capacity of family and level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents, in terms of the level of healthy behavior and good health practices to maintain the health of the environment has reached the value of the simple correlation coefficient of about 0.071. According to some studies (3.1994), despite the presence of family planning programs, but the family size is still large and increasing number of family members affecting the food situation and the spread of infectious diseases.

**The degree of cultural openness - communication of the respondents:** They reflect the degree of exposure of respondents to the mass media and the degree of urban contact them.

**A - The degree of exposure the subjects of mass media:** The mass media in radio and television, newspapers, magazines, leaflets, booklets and other health. And use such means in the dissemination of culture and health awareness - Environmental between people and health practices to maintain the health of the environment in addition to the cinema and video as one of the ways and methods of health education. The results of table 3 indicated to increase the proportion of respondents who watch television Alpramj (28% always, 50% sometimes), and those who listen to the radio (33.3% always, 43.4% sometimes). He also noted the majority of respondents to the non-reading of newspapers and magazines, with an estimated proportion of about 64%. This may be due to the fact that 78.7% of respondents their educational, ranging from my mother (52.7%) and know how to read and write (26%), reflecting the importance of the media and visual as the main source for disseminating information and awareness of environmental health, especially in rural communities with high illiteracy rate. Therefore, you should take advantage of the

mass media to broadcast the message through scientific health at the appropriate times, either on radio or television. To submit to the listeners in the form of simplified or interesting in the form of an

analog light or interesting dialogue in order to attract the largest number of listeners and viewers.

Table (3) The vulnerability of the subjects of mass media

openness communication	Always		Sometimes		Rarely		NO		Total
	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%	
Listen to the radio	50	33.3	65	43.4	20	13.3	15	10	150
Watching TV	42	28	75	50	15	10	18	12	150
Read newspapers and magazines	15	10	22	14.7	17	11.3	96	64	150

Source: Compiled and calculated from field research

**B - The degree of communication of the urban respondents:** It means the degree of frequency of respondents to the nearest city to them and the purpose of the frequency; it is the degree of frequency of respondents to the nearest city to them, a city Shebin. The results showed that 22.7% of respondents attending the city daily, while 18.7% of them go once a week, while about 50.6% indicated they go to the city once a month, while about 8% said they go once a year to the city. The results also indicate the diversity of purposes for which goes respondents to the nearest city to them, it was found that 24.7% go to market crops, 20.7% for treatment, 18% to visit relatives, 12.7% for Labor, 9.3% for entertainment, 8% for the purchase of household items and the needs of the family, 4.6% for the present problems to the officials, 2% for drawn by livestock. In general, the openness of the urban areas is one important and effective factors that contribute significantly to the process of cultural friction and exposure to modern ideas and the correct behaviors to maintain health and avoid the causes of disease and environmental pollution. This has reached the arithmetic average of the degree of cultural openness - communication of respondents to 18.3 degrees. As it turns out there is significant correlation between the cultural level - the level of communication and awareness of health - environmental by the respondents, in terms of the level of healthy behavior and good health practices to maintain the health of the environment. The value of simple correlation coefficient is of about 0.097. This may be due to the fact that the Egyptian village residents are suffering the problems of poverty, ignorance and the spread of bad habits and traditions, in addition to the problems of urban planning of the countryside and the lack of infrastructure services and others. There is no doubt that the information essential role in urging the protection of the environment from pollution through the development of a media plan aimed at increasing awareness of social and environmental good behavior.

level as well as education and family size of the factors affecting the health problems, despite the clear improvement in the economic level and the relatively high level of income in the Egyptian countryside, but that, in comparison to other developed countries is still at this level is far from the desired level, where affect household income in housing, clothing, nutrition and Etorha that affect the health of the individual. The estimates indicate that the value of the arithmetic average of the degree of the economic level of the respondents amounted to about 22.31 degrees. Also show a significant correlation between the economic level of living and level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents, in terms of the level of behavior Alasahy proper health practices to maintain the health of the environment has reached the value of the simple correlation coefficient of about 0.294. Studies show that a person who enjoys a high standard of living will be more inclined to accept the new ideas of knowledge and information. The results also showed that nearly half of respondents (51.3%) rented houses which they reside, while the percentage of those who own their homes, about 48.7%. As for the availability of devices Alcirbeiip modern has been found available homes subjects, in descending order - Radio, Color TV, TV black and white, recorder, refrigerator, washing machine - a relative importance of an estimated 92%, 66%, 29%, 30%, 26%, 3.5% respectively. As it turns out the diversity of sources of income respondents were ranked according to their relative importance in descending order as follows: Sale of agricultural crops (67.4%), the performance of occupations and the work of other non-agricultural (56.5%), paid work for others to perform some agricultural operations (23.7%), sale of dairy and products (13.4%), sale of livestock (9.4%), poultry (4.6%). He also pointed towards the 64.7% of the subjects that income levels have equal access with the rest of the families in the villages selected a sample of the study, while 30.7% pointed to low levels of income from entering the rest of the families in the same villages, while showing high levels of

entry of about 4.6% of the respondents. This results showed that about 62.7% of the respondents engaged in basic agriculture as a profession, while 37.3% engaged in work other than farming as a career major by going about their work as an agricultural high school.

**Level of health awareness - environmental by the respondents:** Includes the health status of residence and the prevailing habits and health behavior of the respondents and their families. The results showed a significant correlation only between the economic level of the respondents and the level of health awareness - their environmental potential level at 0.01 where the estimated value of the simple correlation coefficient of about 0.294. As it turns out non-significant correlation between the age Category, educational level, family size, level of cultural communication of the respondents (independent variables) and level of health awareness - Environmental (dependent variable), where the estimated values of simple correlation coefficient about 0.041, -0.046, -0.071, 0.097, respectively.

**A - The health situation of the house:** The studies on the impact of the state housing and the lack of potential for health, and private housing congestion and the lack of safe drinking water and lack of ventilation and the lack of sanitation. As experts point out that housing is health leads to many diseases Ohmaha: bronchitis, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, heart disease, osteomalacia and rickets, infectious diseases such as meningitis, and gastroenteritis and typhoid and Albrtevodip. It is estimated availability of electricity to the homes of about 97.3% of respondents, while the available source of clean drinking water houses 68% of them, while suffering 32% of the non-availability of a source of drinking water health. As indicated 83.3% to a lack of means of sewage homes. As for the ventilation housing, he noted 83.3% to provide good ventilation their homes, while referring 16.7% that their homes and poorly ventilated. Also confirmed 30% of respondents to the presence of litter and farmyard manure (animal dung) in large quantities through the streets of the village and adjacent to their homes. As for the site barn animals has indicated 37.3% to the absence of animal shelters their homes, while only a 20% to the presence of animal pens in a building separate from the house, while referring 42.7% to the presence of animal pens inside the house and next to the living rooms. For the damage to human health, animal pens was 60.7% indicated that the presence of barn animals inside the house something normal and not harmful to health, while 39.3% pointed to the detrimental effect of the

presence of animal pens inside the house. With regard to the adequacy of the number of rooms the house for a number of family members of respondents has indicated 60% as adequate, while 40% as inadequate. With regard to population density to the homes of the subjects has been shown to rise with an estimated \$ 2.2 per person for room one, which shows as Houses health as well as indoor air pollution and the spread of many diseases.

**B - Health habits of the respondents and their families:** playing habits and traditions, an important role in the health services programs, both seeking to request these services or to refrain them and return to the folk customs in the treatment of hand, and hold on to some customs and traditions in the individual's behavior, which directly affect public health on the other. The results indicate the failure of the 97.3% of the wives or daughters of respondents wash pots in the water canals, while 93.3% said the failure of their children to practice swimming in the canals. At the same time, who pointed out the 84.7% not wash their equipment and tools for agricultural pesticide spraying canals and irrigation canals, while 15.3% have it in many cases, leading to increased pollution and disease. As for the knowledge of the subjects most prevalent diseases among the rural population of Egypt, the results showed that the most prevalent diseases in accordance with the views of respondents and their Distributions frequency in descending order as follows: schistosomiasis (87.3%), Ascaris (34.7%), conjunctivitis (18%), the common intestinal and diarrhea for children (14%), malaria (11.3%), hookworm (8.7%), anemia (7.4%), kidney disease (5.7%), arthritis (1%). and returns for these diseases to bad habits and healthy behavior is proper and non-availability of environmental awareness and adequate health care. For the views of respondents on how to obtain advice and treatment where the incidence of any disease have been ordering them and conformable to the distributions of iterative go to: a private doctor in the village (44.7%), Health Unit (32.7%), a private doctor in the city (22%) , General Hospital (20.7%), prescriptions Municipal (6.7%). As for the complaint of respondents from the large number of insects and flies, villages have indicated that, 90.7% to the spread of insects and flies, their homes and villages. Regarding the reasons for the spread of diseases in the villages of the study sample has been arranged for those reasons descending order as the following: the spread of insects and mice (70.7%), lack of hygiene and neglect (52%), lack of health awareness (26.7%), housing is not healthy (12.7%), the use of waste water for irrigation (5.3%), the spread of garbage (2%). With regard to giving children vaccinations health assessments, he pointed

to the 96.7% they vaccinate their children. also confirmed 92% of the respondents to do any vaccination against infectious disease in the case of an outbreak, and in connection with the opinions of respondents in certain phrases related to health awareness and habits, it is clear from the table (4) the approval of 99.3% of the respondents on the need for attention to cleanliness of the village and beauty, while noting 54.7% to their washing hands before

eating, while stressing 90.7% on their approval of the proverbial "man doctor himself," as noted by 33.3% to preference use recipes municipality to go to the doctor, which may be due to a culture of success in non-attendance at places of treatment for regular check-ups to make sure the integrity of health, so do not go to the health unit or doctor If your only intensified by the disease.

Table (4) The views of respondents in some of the phrases associated with health awareness and habits

Phrases related to health awareness and habits of the subjects	OK		sometimes		not OK	
	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%
- Needed care and cleanliness of the village beauty	149	99.3	1	0.7	-	-
- Must wash hands before eating	68	45.3	82	54.7	-	-
- Man is himself a doctor	136	90.7	5	3.3	9	6
- Better to use the recipes for the municipality to go to a doctor	50	33.3	30	20	70	46.7
- Do you think that Zar alleviate some diseases	11	7.3	5	3.4	134	89.3
- Is a remedy for every disease	138	92	5	3.3	7	4.7
- Must wash hands / mouth after eating	68	45.3	82	54.7	-	-
- To be washing dishes and cooking Unni after eating immediately with soap and water	106	70.7	44	29.3	-	-

**Source:** Compiled and calculated from field research

**Conclusion:** The results of research to the low level of health behavior and health practices that can maintain the health of the individual and the environment, and to achieve the advancement of society economically and socially. Therefore, the research recommends the need to work to raise the economic level and living standards of rural families through the establishment of small-scale production and to encourage projects of productive families and attention to health, the environment and the dissemination of health education and environmental awareness among the population of the rural sector, as well as concern for the individual and the family and provide a healthy environment - clean water, clean housing, garbage disposal - necessary to protect them from the face of dangers and diseases, and work to increase awareness of the behavioral to the public about hygiene and environmental improvement health, in addition to the establishment of rural industries, especially related to rotate the waste.

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