



The Egyptian Cabinet - Information & Decision Support Center (IDSC)



The Gap between Values and Public Policies: The National Perspective of World Values Survey: Egyptian Perspective

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- The Information and Decision Support Center carried out the World Values Survey in Egypt during the period from March 15th to April 5th 2008.
- The main objective of applying the World Values Survey all over the world is to help scientists and decision-makers to be more acquainted with the very nature of their peoples, and the changes that take place in individuals' beliefs, values and motives.



Methodology: Objective of the Survey

1. To find out – via scientific methods – the Value system which controls and shapes the tendencies of the Egyptian people, and compare these tendencies with other societies.
2. To identify the changes taking place in the beliefs and motives of the Egyptians. Hence, contributing to a better understanding of their system of values and ideas, and also helping in achieving a greater extent of societal consensus with regard to public policies.
3. To get to know the variations in the tendencies of the Egyptian society (according to age , gender, place of living, educational status, and economic condition), and thus helping formulating suitable messages for different social segments.



Values and Public Policies in Egypt



The survey involved a huge number of variables reflecting the Egyptian people's stance towards some public policy issues, the most important of which are:

- **Economic transformations:** determinants of job preferences – income variations – ownership of business and industry – competition and hard work – employment priorities of foreigners.
- **Environmental Values:** awareness about environmental problems – ways to provide financial resources to protect the environment – bodies responsible of environment protection.
- **Gender Issues:** Work priorities for women – the social and political role of women.
- **Democracy and Human Rights:** membership in volunteering organizations – participation in political activities - the importance of living in a democratic system.



With regard to public policies,
the survey results showed that:

Existence of a gap
between the prevailing
values of the Egyptians
and some of the public
policies.

There are points of
intersection between
values and public
policies



The gap between prevailing values in the Egyptian society and the public policies, was particularly obvious in a number of domains, namely:

- **Determinants of job preferences**
- **Ownership of business and industry.**
- **The role of women in the society.**
- **The environment.**



Determinants of Job Preferences

Public Policy

The diminishing role of the state to provide for jobs that are safe and secure.

Values of the Egyptians

Considering job security as a main determinant*

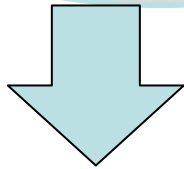
- **44% and 41% of the respondents view the secure job and the good pay as priorities when searching for a job respectively.**
- **Egypt ranked 9th among countries covered by the survey, pertaining to preferences towards job security as a main determinant when choosing a job. And was the 18th on preferring the good job pay.**



Ownership

Public Policy

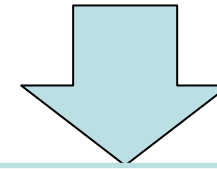
Encouraging private ownership of business and industry



- Privatization Program
- Measures and policies (providing private sector with some concession, ...).

Values Of the Egyptians

Favoring the public ownership of business and industry*



72% of the respondents view the necessity of increasing the public ownership of business and industry*

*Egypt is the most country that prefers the increase of the public ownership of business and industry while the United States is the most country that encourages the private ownership.



Women

Public Policy

Enhancing Women's Role in the Society

- The constitution and the laws don't differentiate between man and woman whether in education or employment.
- Programs and Policies.
- Establishing new bodies.
- Women acquiring new positions.

Values of the Egyptians

Priority of Men over Women

- Priority of men over women in work(89%)*.
- The higher education is more important for the boy than the girl (39.3%).
- Men are better than women as political leaders (93%)*.
- Men are better than women in business execution (86%)*.
- Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay (91%)*.

***Egypt ranked 1st on agreeing on these views.**



Environment

Public Policies

Enhancing societal participation in environment protection

Gov.

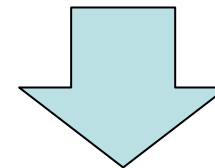
Civil Society

Individuals

- Programs and policies.
- Raising awareness about environmental problems and their dangers.

Values of the Egyptians

The government is the one responsible of environment protection



- High level of awareness concerning the dangers of environmental problems.
- Unwillingness to bear additional burdens to protect the environment.



The results emphasized some of the intersection points between Egyptians' value system and public policies ,among which are:

- Tendencies towards competition.
- Tendencies towards hard work.
- Awareness about environmental problems



Competition

Public Policy

Values of the Egyptians

Enhancing the
role and
importance of
competition

Competition is
good

42.5%*
Egypt ranked 6th

***On a scale ranging from 1 – 10, where 10 indicates good perception of competition and 1 indicates bad perception, 42.5% positioned at “1”.**



Hard Work

Public Policy

Values of the Egyptians

Encouraging
hard work

Hard work leads
to a better life

51.4%
Egypt came in the 3rd rank

***On a scale ranging from 1 – 10, where 1 indicates that hard work leads to better life and 10 indicates that hard work not necessarily leads to success, 51.4% came at the value “1”.**



Awareness about environmental problems

Public Policy

Raising Awareness regarding environmental problems and their dangers on the coming generations

Values of the Egyptians

Considerable realization about the environmental problems

94.5% of the respondents perceive the deteriorating quality of water as a crucial problem

91.7% see the weak sewage networks as a serious problem

91.6% perceive the low-quality air as a crucial problem.



It is becoming obvious when looking at the gap between values and policies that:

- ❑ There are negative values in need to be changed in order to cope with local and international developments.
- ❑ Public policies that require intensive efforts in the direction of altering the value system.
- And if the public policy is formulated by the state and thus could be changed, the question turns to be:

Are values changeable, and if they are, how this can be achieved, and what is the time frame in which such a change is to take place, and what are the factors that help stimulate values change?



Changing Values

Hard



- Values are relatively constant as they change slowly.
- The Value system is complicated.

Possible



- **Historical evidence indicates the possibility of realizing that change:**
 - Scientific and technological developments.
 - Religious discourse supporting the development process.
 - The influence of the media.
 - Demographic transformations.
 - The influence of political leaders in pushing forward towards certain values.



Changing Values

The Question

Can that be achieved?



It is possible through:

- The role of think tanks in bridging the gap
- Efficient media.
- Advanced education.



Thank you