The Challenges of Using Sociological Research in Policy Making in the Arab World: An Empirical Study

Abstract

The current research has focused on the study of the challenges which are facing the utilization of applied social research in policy and decision-making. The research also dealt with the transfer of its findings to the practice in the Arab community. To achieve this, a survey was conducted to measure the perceptions of Arab academics about the following: 1) the characteristics of the overall political context unique in the Arab societies, 2) the reality of the institutional context of policy-making process, 2) a diagnosis of knowledge production, 4) the quality of knowledge and its connection with decision-making process, and 5) recognizing the interaction process between research and policy. The research used descriptive and analytical approaches, based on a set of methodological procedures. It is based on a social survey method. The research has come to a number of important results, and ended up with a number of recommendations to bridge the gap between research and policy, as well as activating the role of scientific research in policy formulation in Arab world.