



Available online freely at [www.isisn.org](http://www.isisn.org)

# Bioscience Research

Print ISSN: 1811-9506 Online ISSN: 2218-3973

Journal by Innovative Scientific Information & Services Network



RESEARCH ARTICLE

BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH, 2023, 20(3):731-740.

OPEN ACCESS

## The Role of NGOs in enhancing environmental citizenship behaviors in the city of Ha'il: A descriptive study applied to a sample of NGOs in the city of Ha'il

Ibrahim Elhousseiny A. Helal<sup>\*1,2</sup>, Monera Salem Almohawes<sup>3</sup>, Neveen Mohamed Galal Ibrahim<sup>1,4</sup>, Maher Trimeche<sup>1,5</sup> and Mona Hammad ALShammary<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Program of social work, Department of social sciences, College of Arts, University of Ha'il, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

<sup>2</sup>Department of Group Work, Higher institute of Social Work, Benha, Egypt

<sup>3</sup>Department of English language, College of Arts, University of Ha'il, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

<sup>4</sup> Rural Sociology Department, Tanta University, Egypt

<sup>5</sup>College of Literature and Human Sciences, University of Sousse, Tunisia

\*Correspondence: [i.alhysany@uoh.edu.sa](mailto:i.alhysany@uoh.edu.sa) Received:00-00-2023, Revised:28-07-2023, Accepted: 31-07-2023 e-Published: 04-08-2023

The current study was intended to identify the role of civil associations in enhancing citizenship environment- related behaviors in the city of Hail. For the purpose, 3 associations were singled out, in particular, the Hail Association for Human Development, the Environment Association in Hail, and the Association for Voluntary Work and Community Service, with regard to their involvement in the field of environment in Hail. The sample was selected on a regular random basis, targeting participants and those who benefited from the association's services. The sample size was 103 respondents and data were collected between September 2022 and October 2022, using a paper and electronic questionnaire, and running an arbitration and preliminary test. The most important findings pointed out that associations have an important and prominent role to play in instilling environmental culture among members of society by raising awareness among participants regarding environmental problems and their causes, and by getting a good grasp of the environmental laws of the Kingdom, in addition to urging them to take part in the environmental decision-making process and elucidating its seriousness. The findings also indicated that NGOs have a role to play in enhancing awareness of rights and duties. This is done by informing visitors about their rights and obligations towards environmental preservation and their right to be trained in the field of environmental work skills. The associations also hold some workshops to increase environmental awareness among visitors. Furthermore, they encourage individuals to take part in environmental activities by celebrating the World Environment Day and getting individual participation in this event. They do so by engaging those individuals in planting trees and pushing them to volunteer in the field of environmental work.

**Keywords:** Role, NGOs, Environmental , Citizenship, Behaviors

### INTRODUCTION

Citizenship is regarded as one of the concepts that civilized modern human thought has generated. This concept has evolved in parallel with the development of human societies and has been in connection with the human struggle movement throughout history in order to establish participation in its various dimensions, partial or total, in all fields of social and economic life and make community-binding decisions in addition to assuming public positions based on social justice and equality standards.

Community involvement through civil society organizations is regarded as one of the most important

principles of sustainable development. Although there are many laws and legislations to preserve and protect the environment, they cannot be solely relied upon unless citizens are sensitized about their rights and responsibilities with regard to environment as well as the importance of developing a sense of belonging. There should be also a focus on the role of NGOs in promoting environmental citizenship among members of society and its institutions, which is commonly known as environmental citizenship.

The environmental preservation issue and its problems are regarded as one of the most serious issues that society is encountering at the moment. This is due to

the alarming deterioration that the environment has been undergoing over the past few years. This can be attributed to the critical relationship between man and the environment and what this critical relationship might involve in terms of constant interference in the natural environment's constituents. (Ben-Amara, 2020).

The concept of environmental citizenship focuses on involving citizens in handling common issues and other growing problems associated with the environmental system and its sustainability preservation. The environmental system is by far one of the most important topics in international law. It is also one of the most important issues that affects the whole world. If appropriate measures are not taken to preserve and protect this system, it will threaten international peace and security (Amroush, 2014).

The purpose of environmental citizenship is to instill values, principles, and ideals among members of society, regardless of their age, in order to enable them to effectively and actively tackle all environmental issues and problems. Therefore, the concept of environmental citizenship will evolve as an existential necessity for human survival and not merely as a slogan. (Al-Harbi, 2016)

Henceforth, environmental citizenship is one of the important factors that, to a wide extent, affect economic, social, cultural, and political development. What is more, it is regarded as a strategic goal for state policies and for the programs of many international and local organizations that are working on achieving environmental security and preservation, which can only be achieved by spreading awareness among members of society and providing them with adequate skills and tools on how to deal with the environment in a better way. (Al-Saidy, 2014)

In this context, NGOs, which are constituents of civil society organizations, play an important role in achieving development and progress within society, especially when it comes to protecting and preserving the environment through the participation of various groups of society in achieving this goal.

In addition, NGOs provide services whose purpose is to consolidate and strengthen inhabitants within society; that is, they will provide services to those inhabitants within their different environments. They also focus on urban renovation and try to improve conditions for specific neighboring communities. They offer educational and cultural programs and try to stimulate social interaction that generates permanent cultural exchange and mutual respect. It should be noted that such activities usually require partnerships between organizations and local authorities, thus paving the way for opportunities for construction that affect the NGOs effectiveness.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, many organizations seek to upgrade the capabilities of communities and their individuals through public and private sector organizations. They also work to improve the social, economic, political, and environmental conditions of those

communities in order to fulfill the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which primarily aims to improve the level of local communities and the national and regional society in the Kingdom by ameliorating their conditions in all aspects of life, including the environmental component.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there are about (686) charitable associations, in addition to (121) charitable institutions scattered along the Kingdom and depending on the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development. They all provide various services to beneficiaries, including taking care of environmental issues and participating in protecting natural environment resources and safeguarding them from pollution, in addition to adjusting the behavior of some individuals by raising awareness with regard to wrong practices in relation to the environment, which is what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 seeks to achieve.

Based on the above, NGOs are supposed to spread the culture of environmental citizenship in society. This implies that each individual within the community is held responsible for the environment in which s/he lives on the basis of a set of duties and responsibilities (Yassin, 2002).

The aim of this study is to mainly identify the role of NGOs in promoting environmental citizenship behaviors in the city of Hail. There are several sub-goals derived from this objective:

- 1- Determining the role of civil society organizations in instilling environmental culture among members of society.
- 2- Determining the role of civil society organizations in raising awareness of environmental rights and duties.
- 3- Determining the role of NGOs in motivating community members to participate in the environment.

Based on its objectives, the study attempts to answer the following major question: "What is the role of civil associations in promoting environmental citizenship behaviors in the city of Hail?" "Several sub-questions emerge from this.

- 1- What is the role of civil society organizations in instilling an environmental culture among members of society?
- 2- What is the role of civil society organizations in raising awareness of environmental rights and duties?
- 3- What is the role of civil society organizations in motivating community members to participate in the environment?

## The theoretical approach of the study

### Concepts of the study

#### Role concept

Kinloch (1977) defines the role as "the structural unit of the organization (associations). It is the bridge between the individual and society. It is also the link between the institutional structure and the social structure. It relies on a set of duties and rights, and it is the link between the individual and the social structure." (Parsons, 1999)

considers that the social role involves social duties and rights, so an individual's duties are determined by the role he occupies. His rights, however, are determined by the duties and tasks he performs in society. It should be noted that the individual does not hold one social role but rather several roles in different institutions. The above-mentioned roles are not similar, as there are leadership roles, mediating roles, and grassroots roles. Understandably, the role is to be the link between the individual and society.

### The concept of a civil association

Civil associations are defined as any group that has an established continuous organization and consists of physical individuals, legal entities, or both. They should be non-profit associations and consist of no fewer than 10 members each. In this sense, civil society is regarded as a voluntary organization with an organizational identity and legal personality. It arises from the desire and preference of its own members and has goals and activities that support public interest (Al-Sukary, 2003: p. 145). Abdul Latif defines them as non-profitable units founded by members of the local community that seek to increase resources, improve society, and empower their members (Abdulatif, 2010).

### The concept of environmental citizenship

In its broad sense, citizenship refers to the relationship between the individual and the country in which he permanently resides and to which he is attached geographically, historically, and culturally. An increased sense of citizenship is now commonly regarded as one of the fundamental civic tendencies in modern times, regardless of the different intellectual and philosophical backgrounds of this or that society (Al-Sharkawi, 2005).

In connection with this, Ismail and Al-Khalif (2013) pointed out that the purpose of citizenship is to achieve harmony among members of society by opting for dialogue to settle all kinds of disputes that may arise between its various groups, to preserve rights and freedoms, to encourage individuals to be committed towards the state, to respect ethnic, ideological, and intellectual differences and diversity between members of society, to prioritize the interest of the country over private interests, and to contribute to the consolidation of basic principles such as dignity, freedom, and equality, in addition to respecting all the rights of individuals in various fields.

Al-Khatib (2006) indicated that there is a set of common citizenship standards between one country and another, namely: equality, equal opportunities, participation in public life, and a sense of responsibility. Annette (2000) emphasizes that citizenship is a reciprocal relationship between the individual and his country, and it is subject to change and evolution every now and then. It is also a voluntary relationship with this individual's homeland and the various other groups in society. Engle and Ochoa (1988) referred to the nature of the relationship

between citizenship and development, wherein good citizenship ranks as one of the highest goals of human societies, regardless of their schools of thought and philosophical sources, as it positively impacts the goals of all those societies. Citizenship is one of the issues that are often raised when addressing any aspect of human development, global reform, or development projects in general.

### Theories guiding the study.

The social role involves social duties and rights. Individual duties are determined by the role that the individual occupies. Rights, however, are determined by the duties and tasks he performs in society (Al-Hassan, 2005)

In light of the above, the role theory can be used in the current study to determine how far the actual role of NGOs in promoting environmental citizenship and their expected role can match.

There are four forms of citizenship: Absolute citizenship, in which the citizen holds positive and negative roles in society Positive citizenship, in which the individual feels that he strongly belongs to his nation and is committed to playing a positive role in confronting problems. Negative citizenship, wherein the individual has a sense of national belonging but will be happy to only negatively criticize and will not provide any positive service to his country. And fake citizenship occurs when the individual only carries hollow slogans that do not reflect reality and demonstrates a lack of pride in his homeland. (Faraj, 2004).

The concept of environmental citizenship first appeared in the United States, Canada, and Britain at the end of the last century. It was also mentioned by the United Nations Environment Program. The preservation of the environment is not a new concept. Preserving the environment is a duty that all governments and citizens must undertake. Environmental citizenship implies that the citizen will look beyond his own interests in order to ensure the welfare of society, bearing in mind the preservation of future generations' rights, which is the closest concept to sustainable development.

"Environmental citizenship" (Aba-Hussein, 2006) means the behavior that individuals develop to protect the environment, local or global, and its natural resources from pollution, which reflects the extent of awareness and knowledge of the scarcity of natural resources and their limited renewable potentials, in addition to the importance of preserving them and ensuring their sustainable development.

### Previous studies:

Benaouda Study (2020) the researcher aimed to identify the concept of environmental citizenship and its connection with the societal orientations of individuals and groups in the countries of the European community. The study concluded that increasing interest in ways to

promote environmental citizenship in European societies has a great impact on improving the environmental conditions of its inhabitants.

Al-Hermel Study (2020) The researcher aimed to identify the efforts of NGOs in the economic, political, and environmental aspects of sustainable development. The study indicated that NGOs have an important role in achieving sustainable development through cooperation and coordination between governmental and private entities. The study recommended the need for further training to enhance and sharpen the skills of social experts.

Al-Shehaby and Bohazza (2019) This study aimed to show that the concept of environmental citizenship is important in order to understand and push forward the social movement in favor of the environment in the Gulf. With regard to the Arab Gulf countries, including Kuwait, we are short on data related to the citizens' attitudes toward the environment. While some of the available studies discuss attitudes towards environmental responsibility from a consumer's perspective, they do not, however, provide an in-depth understanding of what motivates these attitudes and the various ways to stimulate pro-environmental behavior among individuals.

Based on the study sources, three components of the concept of environmental citizenship in Kuwait were derived: Man's relationship with the environment and the sense of place The rapport between environmental citizenship and Islamic values The importance of education and community involvement

These components were developed based on the experiences of individuals and their interactions with their natural environment, as well as on how they value the environment and their historical connection with it. Such components constitute highly significant overlapping elements and are at the heart of the environmental discourse in Kuwait.

Abdel-Masih et al. (2018) This study aimed to instill the values of environmental citizenship among young people in youth centers through a competition program in order to eventually measure its effectiveness. A competition program was set up and involved a number of environmental issues, such as all kinds of environmental pollution, resource management, sustainable development, climate change, sound management, and biodiversity. The results pointed out that the program affected environmental responsibility, collective action, and environmental justice.

Al-Ajmi et al. (2018) This study aimed to identify the level of environmental citizenship among a sample of Kuwait University students. The study concluded that there are three dimensions in which the level of awareness is high: volunteering, awareness, and responsible behavior. Students' support for environmental activities, however, was rated as average.

Rachidy and Fallahy (2017) In this study, the researcher dealt with environmental citizenship as one of

the forms of citizenship and evoked the role of civil associations in environmental citizenship to define it in the following way: Improving waste management by improving its collection process and developing systems to process it, implementing urban and industrial waste recovery and reuse policies, improving wastewater treatment and implementing an integrated policy for purifying and filtering water, expanding green spaces and combating pollution in urban areas, protecting and expanding vegetation, combating industrial pollution, in addition to its role in spreading environmental awareness, introducing individuals to the dangers of environmental pollution, training individuals to assume environmental responsibility and decision-making, and developing a sense of citizenship.

Shalaby et al. (2016) This research aimed to enhance environmental citizenship among a group of young people who use Face book as one of the modern methods of social communication. The semi-experimental approach was used, and the study revealed the impact of alternative media and related means in developing environmental citizenship, which proved even better than traditional means.

Mohamed's study (2016). This study aimed to promote environmental citizenship among civil society workers specialized in the field of the environment by presenting a proposed program for its workers. The results showed the effectiveness of the program based on workshops, seminars, and group discussions among the scholars in the civil associations. The program also worked on developing the performance of the associations operating in the field of the environment.

This study investigated environmental values and environmental awareness among a sample of students and faculty members at a South African university. The study concluded that faculty members teach environmental awareness-related topics and practice positive behaviors. Findings also showed that students hold environmental values and express interest in and desire to learn about the environment.

The study of EFAD, Center for Studies and Consultations (2014). This study rated NGOs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to collect criteria by means of which charitable private associations involved in various activities in the Kingdom can be classified. The center recommended developing a spirit of competition in charitable work between these associations and promoting an investment spirit among those in charge of charitable work in the Kingdom. This is done in order to open new horizons for safe investments that bring about sufficient returns for charities, which in turn strengthen the sense of belonging to society.

Previous studies that dealt with the issue of citizenship varied in terms of citizenship and the role of education institutions in developing environmental citizenship. Among these studies are the study of Al-Ajmi et al. (2018), the study of Lillah and Viviers (2014), and

other studies that dealt with the role of civil society organizations and civil associations in promoting environmental citizenship, such as the study of Rachidy et al. (2017), the study of Al-Hermel (2020), and the study of Mohamed (2016), and some were interested in enhancing the sense of citizenship among young people. We are referring here to the studies of Shalaby et al. (2016) and Abdel-Masih et al. (2018), but the dimensions of environmental citizenship and their connections with civil organizations were not addressed, nor were the role of civil associations in supporting the dimensions of environmental citizenship among the visitors. By and large, there are very few studies dealing with the role of NGOs in supporting environmental citizenship, which necessitates further studies in this field to clarify the developmental role of NGOs and their relationship to environmental protection and preservation and spreading environmental culture among their employees and visitors.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study methodology:

This study is descriptive and compatible with its objectives. The study aims to identify the role of civil associations in enhancing environmental citizenship behaviors; it used a social survey of sample beneficiaries of NGOs in the city of Ha'il, in the Kingdom of Saudi

Arabia. Therefore, the study used an electronic questionnaire to identify this role.

### Fields of study:

#### A - Spatial Field:

NGOs in the city of Hail. The selected associations were the Hail Association for Human Development, the Environment Association in Hail, and the Association for Voluntary Work and Community Service because they are involved in the field of the environment.

#### B- Human Field:

A sample of 103 beneficiaries from the services of civil associations in the city of Hail was singled out in a systematic random from the lists of beneficiaries who frequent those associations. An informed consent was obtained in order to participate in the research, and researchers used the statistical packages for the social sciences program (SPSS- V26). (Table 1):

It is clear from the table that: The demographic characteristics of the beneficiaries of community associations services as service providers are as follows: according to the gender variable (males 93.2%, while females 6.8%), according to the nationality variable (77.7% Saudi, while non-Saudis 22.3%), according to the age variable (The largest percentage of the age group 35 to less than 45 years 53.4% compared to other age groups, 45 and over 37.9%, from 25 to less than 35 years 8.7%.

**Table1: Description of the demographic characteristics of NGO services beneficiaries, "Study sample"**

Variables		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	male	96	93.2
	Female	7	6.8
Nationality	Saudi	80	77.7
	Non-Saudi	23	22.3
Age	From 25 to less than 35 years old	9	8.7
	From 35 to less than 45 years old	55	53.4
	45 and over	39	37.9
Professional status	Does not work	17	16.5
	works	86	83.5
Educational level	Bachelor's	96	93.2
	Secondary	3	2.9
	Postgraduate	4	3.9
Civil Association is the service provider	Hail Association for Human Development	15	14.6
	Hail Environmental Society	38	36.9
	Association of Voluntary Work and Community Service	50	48.6
Number of years Benefiting from the services of the NGO	Less than a year	1	1.0
	From one year to less than three years	95	92.2
	Three years or more	7	6.8
Satisfaction of beneficiaries with NGO services	Not satisfied	13	12.6
	Satisfied	90	87.4
Total		103	100

According to the employment status (83.5% of those who work, 16.5% who do not work), according to the educational level (93.2% bachelor's degree, 3.9% postgraduate studies, 2.9% secondary school), according to the service provider's community association (48.6% of volunteer work and community service association, 36.9% of the environment association %, Human Development Association 14.6%, according to the number of years of benefiting from the services of the community association service provider (from one year to less than three years 92.2%, three years or more 6.8%, less than a year 1.0%), and according to the level of satisfaction of the beneficiary with the services of community associations (87.4% satisfied, 12.5% dissatisfied).

### C- Time Field:

From September 2022 to October 2022

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results related to answering the first sub-question:

In order to answer the first sub-question, which states, "What is the role of NGOs in instilling environmental culture among members of society?" Researchers conducted a descriptive statistical treatment that consisted of calculating the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and order, as shown in the following table

**Table 2: shows the role played by NGOs in instilling an environmental culture among community members.**

	Phrases	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1.	Help me understand the causes of environmental problems	4.48	.624	3
2.	Increase my awareness of the environmental problems that my community suffers from.	4.56	.605	1
3.	Provide me with the services the Ministry of Environment provides to citizens	4.20	.867	8
4.	Introduce me to the hazardous effects of chemical resources on the environment.	4.36	.739	5
5.	Develop my knowledge of various environmental concepts	4.36	.778	6
6	Provide me with the skills in developing solutions to various environmental problems.	3.91	.991	10
7.	Provide me with knowledge about environmental laws in the Kingdom	4.40	.719	4
8.	Enable me to participate in making decisions regarding environmental problems	4.51	.592	2
9.	Train me on safety and environmental health procedures	4.33	.706	7
10.	Show me the relationship between environmental pollutants and chronic diseases among humans	4.14	.805	9

In light of the Table 2 data, which illustrates the role of NGOs in instilling environmental culture, we notice that the first phrase was "to increase my awareness of the environmental problems that my community suffers from," with an arithmetic mean of 4.56 and a standard deviation of 0.605. This shows the extent of the NGOs interest in developing cognitive awareness among the respondents. Then came that phrase (Enable me to participate in making decisions regarding environmental problems) with an arithmetic mean of 4.51 and a standard deviation of 0.592. We can also read the phrase "Help me understand the causes of environmental problems" with an arithmetic mean of 4.48 and a standard deviation of 0.624. This implies that civil associations are interested in environmental problems, developing awareness, and striving to solve the above-mentioned problems through the participation of those who frequent the associations.

Later on, we read: "Provide me with knowledge about environmental laws in the Kingdom," with an arithmetic mean of 4.40 and a standard deviation of 0.719. Then comes the phrase "Introduce me to the hazardous effects of chemical resources on the environment," with an arithmetic mean of 4.36 and a standard deviation of 0.739. This is followed by the phrase: "develop my knowledge of various environmental concepts," with an arithmetic mean of 4.36 and a standard deviation of 0.778. All these expressions belong to the cognitive field, which demonstrates the NGOs interest in developing the cognitive skills of the respondents.

This is followed by the phrase: "Train me on safety and environmental health procedures" with an arithmetic mean of 4.33 and a standard deviation of 0.706, and the phrase: "Provide me with the services the Ministry of Environment provides to citizens" with an arithmetic mean of 4.20 and a standard deviation of 0.867. At one moment, we can read: "Show me the relationship between environmental pollutants and chronic diseases among humans" with an arithmetic mean of 4.14 and a standard deviation of 0.805.

Finally, we can also quote: "Provide me with the skills to develop solutions to various environmental problems." with an arithmetic mean of 3.91 and a standard deviation of 0.991.

This is consistent with the findings of the study of Rachidy and Fallahy (2017), whose main conclusions emphasized the NGOs role in spreading environmental awareness, sensitizing individuals to the dangers of environmental pollution, training individuals on environmental responsibility and decision-making, and developing a sense of citizenship. The study of Lillah and Viviers (2014) showed the importance of environmental awareness among both students and faculty members and its role in preserving the environment. The studies of Shalaby et al. (2016) and Abdel-Masih (2018) highlighted the role of NGOs in supporting environmental citizenship and awareness.

**Results related to answering the second sub-question:**

In order for them to answer the second sub-question, which states, "What is the role of NGOs in promoting awareness of environmental rights and duties among members of society?", the researchers conducted a

descriptive statistical treatment that consisted of calculating arithmetic means, standard deviations, and order, as shown in the table below:

**Table 3: shows the role of NGOs in developing awareness of environmental rights and duties among community members.**

	Phrases	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1.	Taught me that everyone has the right to a safe and healthy work environment.	4.04	.939	9
2.	Sharpen my awareness of protecting and preserving the environment from pollution as being an obligation and a moral duty	3.61	1.059	10
3.	Teach me that protecting natural resources such as soil, water, air and climate is a moral duty	4.17	.781	8
4.	Advise me on the costs that the individual should bear for combating environmental pollution	4.25	.737	7
5.	Support my right to enjoy the highest standard of health in an environment that is free of pollutants.	4.31	.686	4
6.	Ensure that every citizen has the right to be protected from environmental risks	4.50	.670	1
7.	Support my right to education in the area of human environmental rights	4.30	.815	6
8.	Support my right to environmental work skills training	4.32	.757	3
9.	We have a national commitment to reducing environmental problems.	4.31	.767	5
10.	Training workshops are held to introduce me to global environmental protection experiences.	4.35	.750	2

From the above-mentioned data, it is clear that the phrase "ensure that every citizen has the right to be protected from environmental risks" comes first, with an arithmetic mean of 4.50 and a standard deviation of 0.670. It shows the importance of men feeling environmentally secure. This is followed by the phrase, "Training workshops are held to introduce me to global environmental protection experiences," with an arithmetic average of 4.35 and a standard deviation of 0.750. We can then read: "Support my right to training on environmental work skills" with an arithmetic mean of 4.32 and a standard deviation of 0.757, both of which emphasize the importance of training and workshops in developing environmental awareness among the respondents.

Then we read this phrase: "Support my right to enjoy the highest level of health in an environment free of pollutants," with an arithmetic mean of 4.31 and a standard deviation of 0.686. This is followed by (our national duty to contribute to the reduction of environmental problems is rooted in our hearts) with an arithmetic mean of 4.31 and a standard deviation of 0.767.

Afterwards, we read the following: "Support my right to be educated in the field of human environmental rights," with an arithmetic mean of 4.30 and a standard deviation of 0.815. Such expressions reflect the role of associations in making an effective contribution to increasing society's awareness of the environment and its preservation.

This is followed by the phrase: "Advise me on the

costs that the individual should bear for combating environmental pollution," with an arithmetic average of 4.25 and a standard deviation of 0.737. Afterwards, there is this phrase: "Teach me that protecting natural resources such as soil, water, air, and climate is a moral duty," with an arithmetic mean of 4.17 and a standard deviation of 0.781. Then the phrase: "Teach me that each individual has the right to obtain a safe and healthy work environment," with an arithmetic mean of 4.04 and a standard deviation of 0.939. Finally, my awareness that protecting and preserving the environment from pollution is an obligation and a moral duty has an arithmetic mean of 3.61 and a standard deviation of 1.059.

It is clear from the above that the role that associations play in developing environmental awareness consists of developing awareness of the importance of participating in preserving the environment through the use of some phrases, developing environmental awareness by holding workshops and training courses, and finally developing awareness among individuals of the importance of living in a clean and safe environment.

These findings are consistent with the studies of Rachidy and Fallahy (2017) and Benaouda's study (2020), whose aim consisted of promoting environmental citizenship in societies through the betterment of environmental awareness. There was also Al-Hermel's study (2020), which emphasized the importance of training to achieve sustainable development and whose goal is to preserve the environment.

Mohamed's study (2016) aimed at developing environmental citizenship among workers, and the program consisted of courses and workshops for the development of environmental citizenship.

states, "What is the role of associations in motivating community members to participate in the environment?", researchers conducted a descriptive statistical treatment that consisted of calculating arithmetic means, standard deviations, and order, as shown in the table.

#### Results related to answering the third sub-question:

In order to answer the third sub-question, which

**Table 4: shows the role of associations in motivating community members to participate in the environment.**

	Phrases	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1.	Encourage me to take part in environmental awareness seminars.	4.21	7.23	3
2.	Motivate me to volunteer in environmental protection projects.	4.16	8.60	4
3.	Involve me in campaigns whose aim is to clean the surrounding environment.	3.71	1.117	10
4.	Encourage me to use social media in order to raise awareness of environmental issues.	3.74	1.075	9
5.	Urge me to donate in order to carry out local environmental protection activities.	4.31	7.41	1
6.	Urge me to invite friends to participate in local environmental protection activities.	4.24	.773	2
7.	Are keen on my participation in environmental decision- making in the local community.	4.11	.851	6
8.	Involve me in the process of planting trees in the local community	4.12	.867	5
9.	I am keen on the participation of my family members in the celebration of World Environment Day.	4.00	.897	7
10.	Encourage me to make suggestions about ways to protect the environment.	3.99	.975	8

It is clear from the table data that the phrase "urge me to donate in order to implement local environmental protection activities" received the highest number of responses, with an arithmetic mean of 4.31 and a standard deviation of 0.741.

This is followed by the phrase "urge me to invite friends to participate in local environmental protection activities," with an arithmetic mean of 4.24 and a standard deviation of 0.773. Both phrases express the role of the association in motivating individuals to actively participate in protecting the environment through donations and invitations for friends to donate.

This is followed by the phrase "encourage me to participate in environmental awareness seminars," with an arithmetic mean of 4.21 and a standard deviation of 0.723. Then we can read the phrase "motivate me to volunteer in environmental protection projects" with an arithmetic mean of 4.16 and a standard deviation of 0.860. This is followed by the phrase "involve me in the process of planting trees in the local community," with an arithmetic mean of 4.12 and a standard deviation of 0.867. At another stage, we can read: "Are you keen on my participation in environmental decision-making in the local community?" Then encourage me to provide suggestions on ways to protect the environment, with an arithmetic mean of 3.99 and a standard deviation of 0.975. This is followed by the phrase "encourage me to use social websites to raise awareness of environmental issues," with an arithmetic mean of 3.74 and a standard deviation of 1.079.

Finally, we read: "Involve me in campaigns to clean the surrounding environment." with an arithmetic mean of 3.71 and a standard deviation of 1.117.

Therefore, it can be concluded that NGOs are working to develop and motivate individuals to actively take part in environmental protection, whether through environmental protection activities or participation in decisions that protect the environment from pollution. This is confirmed by the findings of both Mohamed's study (2016), which indicated that NGOs have a role in developing environmental participation through the implementation of a suggested program, and Aba-Hussein's study (2006), which clarified the importance of participation in the process of environmental decision-making.

#### CONCLUSION

The findings of the study revealed that according to visitors, civil associations played an effective role in developing environmental citizenship in Hail, wherein the results indicated that associations have an important and prominent role in instilling environmental culture among members of society and in developing awareness of environmental problems and their causes as well as building knowledge of environmental laws in the Kingdom and urging them to participate in environmental decision-making.

The results also demonstrated that NGOs contribute to developing awareness of rights and duties when associations inform visitors of their rights and duties towards the environment in terms of preservation and the



right to training in environmental work skills. The associations also organize some workshops that contribute to raising environmental awareness among visitors. The civil associations also motivate individuals and urge them to participate in the environment by celebrating World Environment Day and calling for individual participation.

This is also done through the participation of individuals in planting trees and volunteering in the field of environmental work. These findings are consistent with the studies of Rachidy and Fallahy (2017), Benaouda (2020), Al-Hermel (2020), Mohamed (2016), Aba-Hussein (2006), Lillah and Viviers (2014), Shalaby et al. (2016), and Abdel-Masih et al. (2018), all of whom highlighted the importance of environmental citizenship and the role of communities in preserving and protecting the environment.

### Recommendations:

The participation of expert academics in committees for planning and designing curricula for different educational levels, rethinking teacher training programs in the environmental field so that they can contribute to educating their students in the area of environmental issues, Raising environmental awareness among community members in order to preserve the environment by setting up a mechanism to help expand the planning and implementation of various media programs that discuss environmental issues, with a special emphasis on the role of civil associations in enhancing environmental matters and the importance of preserving them, The importance of coordinating efforts between those parties that are involved in protecting, maintaining, and developing the environment, including supporting preparation and training plans, adopting the concept of environmental development, and reinforcing the role of environmental health departments in municipalities, village complexes, and health centers by supporting their human and physical capabilities, Working on reducing the effects of all types and forms of environmental pollution by reinforcing and developing ways to get rid of environmental pollutants and limit their effects, as well as activating and developing special environmental protection legislation that is observed by owners of factories, workshops, and other development projects, Holding regular seminars and conferences in the field of environmental education, as well as coordinating between the parties that are interested in the environment and environmental education in order to hold conferences and seminars that discuss environmental matters and issues, Supporting specialized research in this field, presenting its findings and discussing them in seminars and conferences, assessing results, and implementing the results obtained in those conferences, while benefiting from the experiences of other countries in the field of environmental education, Issuing severe legislation to punish whoever pollutes the environment in any form.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declared that present study was performed in absence of any conflict of interest.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The current research was funded by Scientific Research Deanship at University of Ha'il, Saudi Arabia through Project No.RG.21039

### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

IEAH and MHA designed the study methodology and wrote the theoretical framework and previous studies. MT and MSA collected the data and performed the statistical analysis. All authors co-wrote a discussion of the results. All authors read and approved the final version.

---

### Copyrights: © 2023@ author (s).

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.

---

### REFERENCES

- Aba-Hussein, A.A. (2006). Indicators for measuring the degree of achievement of environmental citizenship. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 34(2), 37-57. DOI.10.34120/0080-034-002-003
- Abdel-Masih, S. A., Al-Jayushi, Y. M., Kenawy, N.F. (2018) Using competition program for developing some environmental citizenship dimensions field in some youth centers, *Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 42(1), 327-357. [https://jes.journals.ekb.eg/article\\_21840\\_94ae5e3361d418588b11d6644d0cca29.pdf](https://jes.journals.ekb.eg/article_21840_94ae5e3361d418588b11d6644d0cca29.pdf)
- Abdulatif, R. A. (2010). The development of social organizations. A professional approach to the method of organizing society. Alexandria, Dar Al-Wafa for the world of printing and publishing.
- Al-Ajmi, A. A., Al-Dhafiri, N. B., Al-Shatti, Y. Y. (2018). The level of environmental citizenship among school of basic education's students at the state of Kuwait in the light of some variables, *Journal of the College of Education, Al-Azhar University*, 37(178), 463-495. [https://jsrep.journals.ekb.eg/article\\_40110\\_bf7c2fa634625e28a353e2e076525ec9.pdf](https://jsrep.journals.ekb.eg/article_40110_bf7c2fa634625e28a353e2e076525ec9.pdf)
- Al-Harbi, A. (2016): A Proposed vision for developing citizenship values in science curricula for general education students in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, *Journal of the College of Basic Education for Educational and Human Sciences*, 27, 3-23. <https://search.emarefa.net/ar/search?append=PERIO>

- DICAL\_ISSUES\_PIS\_ID\_ss%3A%22142604%22+N  
OT+SDP\_INFO\_id%3A8
- AL-Hasan, I. M. (2005). Advanced social theories. Amman. Dar Wael for publication and distribution.
- Al-Hermel, N. (2020). Civil associations' mechanisms to achieve sustainable development goals. *Journal of Studies in Social Work and Human Sciences*, 52(1), 269-303.  
[https://jsswh.journals.ekb.eg/article\\_120762\\_d83553a10680ea40063ed1a6e9735d96.pdf](https://jsswh.journals.ekb.eg/article_120762_d83553a10680ea40063ed1a6e9735d96.pdf)
- Al-Khatib, M.S. (2006). Intellectual deviation and its relationship to national and international security. National Center for Youth Research, Riyadh, KSA. Available on: <https://ncys.ksu.edu.sa/ar/node/2749>
- Al-Saidy, A. (2014): A proposed program to develop the dimensions of environmental citizenship for teacher students at the Faculty of Education, Master Thesis, Dept. of Science Education Ain Shams University, Egypt.
- Al-Sharkawi, M. A. (2005). University students' awareness of some citizenship values: a field study. *Journal of Studies in University Education*, 9, 112-192. Available on: <http://search.mandumah.com/Download?file=qrDy+tBjCB+L362Qz/bRVU0m/hva9GjlltVT+Xkm8l=andid=24044>
- Al-Shehaby, O. and Bohazza, K. (2019). The Constant and the Changing 2019: Citizenship in the Gulf's Currents. Edited by Gulf Omar AlShehabi and Khalil Bohazza. Kuwait, Gulf Centre for Development Policies.  
<https://gulfpolicies.org/images/GCCS2019.pdf>
- Al-Sukkary, A. (2015). Community development in social work. "Translations, research and studies in community development and civil associations", Alexandria, Dar Al-Wafa for the world of printing and publishing.
- Amroush, A. (2014). Global environmental citizenship. *Al-Jinan Journal for Human Rights*, 6, 89-142.  
<https://search.emarefa.net/detail/BIM-658979>
- Annette, J. (2000). Citizenship studies, community service learning and higher Education. In *Education for Values: Morals, Ethics and Citizenship in Contemporary Teaching*. Edited By Jo Cairns, Roy Gardner, Denis Lawton, London, Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203770979>
- Ben-Amara, S. (2020). The environmental citizenship. A field and analytical study of the reality of the student's friendship with the environment in some preparatory schools in Ouargla governorate. *Journal of Researcher in the Humanities and Social Sciences*, University Kasdi Merbah Ouargla, 12(3), 39-54.  
<https://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/downArticle/119/12/5/127676>
- Benaouda, M. L. (2020): The environmental citizenship at the European countries between the national legislation and the disparity of the societal trends, *Ijtihad Journal for Legal and Economic Studies*, 9(1), 889-908.  
<https://www.asjp.cerist.dz/en/downArticle/222/9/1/106933>
- Efad Researches and Consultations Center, (2010). Classification of non-profit associations in in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Publications of the King Khalid Charitable Foundation. <https://www.kkf.org.sa/media/likd2y4h/22-.pdf>
- Engle, S. H and Ochoa, A. S. (1988). *Education for Democratic Citizenship: Decision Making in the Social Studies*, New York, Teachers Colle Press.
- Faraj, H. A. (2004). Education and citizenship, an analytical study. *Journal of the future of Arab education*, 10(35), 9-37. <http://www.acedeg.org/Upload/Files/35.pdf>
- Ismail, M. K., and Al Khalif, S. A. (2013). Citizenship and consolidation of volunteering. Promising Research Center in Social Research and Women's Studies. Riyadh, KSA. Available on: <https://www.pnu.edu.sa/ar/Deanship/Research/ResearchCenter/Documents/292019/9.pdf>
- Kinloch, G. C. (1977). *Sociological theory. Its development and major paradigms*. Published by McGraw-Hill Companies, Los Angeles, USA.
- Lillah, R., and Viviers, S. (2014). Does Business Education Cultivate Environmental Citizenship? *African Journal of Business Ethics*, 8(1), 5-28. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15249/8-1-14>
- Helal, I. E., Galal, N. M., Soliman, M. K., and Eldiasty, A. M. (2023). Environmental Citizenship Behaviors Scale, An Applied Study to community associations' beneficiaries in Ha'il. *Bioscience Research* 20(2), 399–408. <https://www.isisn.org/BR-20-2-2023.htm>
- Mohamed, H. A. (2016). Developing the programs of NGOs working in the field of the environment to develop environmental citizenship among its members. PhD thesis, Environmental Studies and Research Institute, Ain Shams University, Egypt.
- Parsons, T. (1999). Prolegomena to a theory of social institutions. *American Sociological Review*, 55(3), 319-333. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2095758>
- Rachidy, A., and Fallahy, K. (2017). The role of civil society organizations in promoting the values of citizenship in Algeria. *Heritage Journal*, 26, 377-389.  
<http://search.mandumah.com/Record/938366>
- Shalaby, A., Makkawy, H. I., Imam, H. A. (2016). The effectiveness of using alternative media in developing environmental citizenship among a group of young people. *Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 3(2), 385-412.  
[https://jes.journals.ekb.eg/article\\_25504\\_fa0d0bea94c1a3a475018cb706d74a80.pdf](https://jes.journals.ekb.eg/article_25504_fa0d0bea94c1a3a475018cb706d74a80.pdf)
- Yassin, E (2002). *Citizenship in the Age of Globalization*, Cairo: Coptic Center for Social Studies.