Gulf Charitable Organizations: Challenges and Opportunities (Field study to evaluate major factors impacting charitable foundations in Gulf region)

Khalid Al Serihi, Abdulfatah Mohamed

Medad, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Introduction:
Charitable foundations in the Gulf Countries namely Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and United Arab Emirates) are faced with a set of challenges and opportunities. Global and regional changes imply number of issues that affect the work of these foundations. An evaluation study for the surrounding climate impacting charitable organizations in the region is a key stage to formulate and develop key objectives and strategies for the charitable sector. This field study will explore most prominent factors which influence the present and future state of Gulf charitable foundations. The study proposes a strategy for the charitable foundations, based on available and gathered data. This study is not aimed to explore internal charitable organizational concerns or factors.

Study Objectives:
1) Identifying the major factors influencing charitable organizations.
2) Conducting a comparative analysis of those factors with those influencing global non-profit foundations outside the region,
3) Drawing key lessons on similarities and or differences among the above two target groups,
4) Recommending strategic objectives for the charitable organizations

Study Questions:
The study attempts to answer the following questions:

- What are the major factors affecting charitable foundations in the Gulf?
- Do those factors affecting charitable foundations differ from one Gulf country to another?

- Do the influencing factors of charitable foundations are similar or vary from those ones affecting global charitable foundations?
- What are the major strategic objectives of charitable foundations in the Gulf?

Methodology and Research Tools:
In order to set strategic objectives for developing charitable sector in the Gulf region, the study will adopt a descriptive analytic approach to delineate factors affecting charitable foundations. The study employs certain research tools, the most important of which:

1) Exploration and theoretical examination for the major scientific resources, including university research papers and scientific articles discussing the topic.

2) Conducting a field survey (through questionnaire) to identify the major factors affecting charitable foundations.

3) Conducting a field survey (through questionnaire) to assess the most prominent common affecting factors between charitable foundations in the Gulf.

4) Compiling survey analysis feedback and data gathered and making use of the experience of charities experienced members through holding discussion groups and interviews on the topic. Conclusions and recommendations shall be included in the study.

5) Holding workshops and discussion meetings to identify factors impacting charitable foundations in the Gulf.

**Prospects**

The study is expected to introduce an evaluation for the major factors influencing charitable foundations in the Gulf region. It will also propose a strategy with key objectives to be adopted by charitable foundations in Gulf Countries.