

# Factors Influencing Breast Cancer Screening Practices Amongst Arabic Women Living in the State of Qatar

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## Research Key Investigators

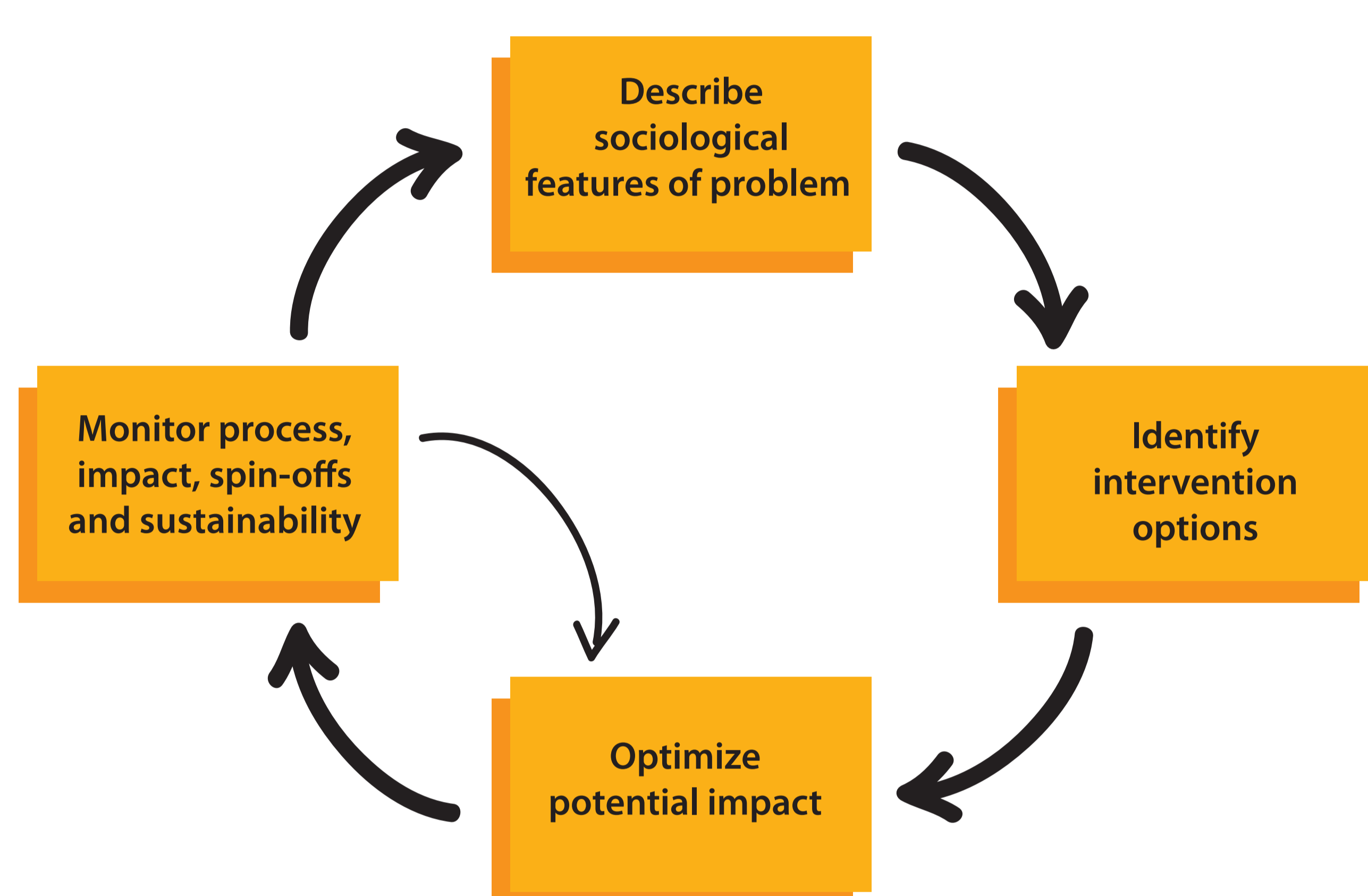
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## Background

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in Qatar.
- 20% of cancer cases receiving treatment in 2007 at Al Amal Hospital in Doha were breast cancer.
- Data from the Gulf Centre for Cancer Registration (GCCR) for breast cancer incidence from 1988-2002 showed the age standardized incident rate of 35.5/100,000 for Qatar was the third highest in the Middle East region, just after Bahrain (46.4/100.000) and Kuwait (44.3/100.000).
- The incidence for breast cancer in Qatari women also occurs at an early age (25-34 years).
- Arabic women are often diagnosed at advanced stages of breast cancer

## Research Design

Multiple Intervention Framework  
(Edwards, Mill & Kothari, 2003)



## Ecological Conceptual Framework

- Emphasizes the relationship between individuals and their physical and socio-cultural environment.
- Individuals' health care behaviour is influenced by physical environmental
- Variables, intrapersonal, and other social determinants of health.
- Health promotion and interventions should also occur at multiple social, cultural, and environmental levels.

## Kleinman's Explanatory Model

Individuals' explanatory models are derived from their knowledge and values, which are informed by their specific socio-cultural backgrounds.

## Research Goal

To develop, implement, and sustain an intervention program that will raise awareness of breast cancer and increase women's participation in breast cancer screening activities therefore reducing breast cancer's morbidity and mortality for Arab women living in the State of Qatar.

## Study 1: Cross-sectional Community - Based Survey of Breast Cancer Screening Practices Amongst Arabic Women Living in the State of Qatar

This study investigates the Arabic women's participation rate in breast cancer screening activities, their knowledge about breast cancer and its screening methods, barriers and facilitators to participation, and their view on the appropriateness and availability of the current breast cancer screening programs.

- Study site: Doha, Al Wakrah, and Al Khor, Qatar.
- Sample size: Convenient sampling will be used to recruit 753 women from different health care settings.
- Method of data collection: Using structured questionnaire, we will conduct face-to-face interviews with Arabic women aged 35 and over.
- Data analysis will be done using statistical program SPSS version 17.

## Study 2: Exploratory Qualitative study - Contextual Factors Effecting Arabic Women's Breast Cancer Screening Practices

This qualitative study will (1) gain insight on how Arabic women view and participate in breast cancer screening practices, (2) gain an understanding on how social, cultural, historical, and economic factors influence Arabic women's breast cancer screening practices, their access to these health care services, and social support networks, (3) gain insight on what intervention strategies will raise awareness of early detection of breast cancer and increase participation in breast screening practices among Arabic women living in Qatar.

- Purposive sampling will be used to recruit 50 Arabic women and 50 Arabic men age 35 and over, and 30 health care providers.
- Qualitative in-depth interviews will be conducted.
- Qualitative data analysis approach will be used for data analysis.

## Anticipated Benefit

This study will raise awareness of breast cancer. Conducting both quantitative and qualitative studies with women, men, and health care providers in Qatar, we will (a) identify barriers and facilitators to breast cancer screening among Arab women, and (b) generate detailed information that will contribute to the development of comprehensive, culturally appropriate, and effective intervention programs that lead to the reduction of the morbidity and mortality from breast cancer for Arab women in Qatar. The knowledge gained from this study may also be applicable to the promotion of breast cancer screening among Arab women living in the Middle East Region and women of similar ethnic and cultural backgrounds.