Major General / Ismail Sayed Ismail
Consultant of the Military Academy for Higher Studies and Strategy

Enhancing Community Awareness
Among Egyptian Youth to Achieve National Security

Introduction:

For decades, Egypt has faced the erosion of its youth's minds and souls, stripping them of their national identity and loyalty to the homeland. This deterioration resulted from poor educational systems, the absence of clear goals, inadequate justice systems to fight corruption, a culture that lost its identity and history, and media that presented a distorted version of life. The media promoted contradictions between the luxurious lifestyles of the wealthy and the struggles of the poor, focusing on quick wealth, superficiality, and irresponsible freedom. Generations of youth grew up unaware of their history and ignorant of the nation's plans. They were intentionally misled, suffering from false consciousness, some of which led to extremism, betrayal, and addiction. Others survived with resilience but without understanding their national identity, their relationship with the country, or their national interests.

The events of January 25, 2011, came as a reaction to all that preceded them, as everyone gathered in Egypt's squares in pursuit of reclaiming a dream stolen by states and groups that had prepared themselves for that moment. When Egyptians woke up to the nightmare of the Muslim Brotherhood's rule and their actions, which jeopardized their security, future, and wealth to achieve their goals, they realized part of the conspiracy. This realization led them to uproot the Brotherhood and reclaim Egypt in the June 30, 2013, revolution to protect the country's security and advance it. Despite understanding the nature of the wars aimed at undermining the Egyptian state, many Egyptians still suffer from intellectual or religious dependence or a lack of collective awareness. In this context, Egypt is currently experiencing a pivotal period in its modern history, where pressures to subjugate it are intensifying. At the same time, it faces challenges resulting from the changing features of the global system, even as it strives to build its renaissance and protect its resources to achieve prosperity for its people. Amid these threats and challenges, particularly the need to enhance societal awareness to safeguard national security, the issue of "awareness" holds great importance. It plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's culture, understanding, and participation in building and developing society. However, this remains contingent on the presence of youth who are aware of their various social issues [1]. Importantly, this awareness must be objective and genuine, rather than false or distorted, as false awareness is even more dangerous than a complete lack of awareness.

Problem of the Study:

This study addresses the question: How does enhancing community awareness contribute to achieving Egyptian national security in the social domain? The Egyptian society, particularly its youth (who represent 60% of the population), needs to develop an integrated and vigilant community awareness. This is necessary for them

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to understand both internal and external problems and the importance of their role in ensuring national security.

Study Objectives:

The main goal of this study is to determine how enhancing community awareness among Egyptian youth contributes to national security. Secondary objectives include:

1- Understanding the theoretical foundations of community awareness.
2- Clarifying the concept of Egyptian national security.
3- Highlighting the importance of enhancing community awareness among Egyptian youth for achieving national security.

Study Questions:

1- What is the conceptual framework for community awareness?
2- What is the concept of Egyptian national security?
3- How is community awareness related to national security?
4- What is the impact of community awareness on Egyptian social security?
5- What are the methods for enhancing community awareness?
6- What are the key sources of shaping community awareness?

Study Methodology:

This study uses a descriptive analytical approach, offering a precise explanation of the nature of community awareness, diagnosing its current state, and analyzing its different aspects. The aim is to extract meaningful insights and conclusions based on these aspects.

Study Content:

The study covers the following topics:

1- The conceptual framework of community awareness and Egyptian national security.
2- The effect of community awareness on Egyptian national security in the social domain.
3- Findings and suggestions.
4- Summary.

First: The Conceptual Framework of Community Awareness and Egyptian National Security

1- Concepts of Awareness:

A- The concept of "awareness" in the Arabic language is derived from the verb wa'a (وَعَـىَ). According to Al-Muhit Dictionary, wa'a means "to retain, contemplate, accept, gather, and encompass something or a piece of information." It also implies memorizing and comprehending speech, as well as reaching a level of awareness or maturity, as in "the boy became aware" (wa'a al-ghulam). Linguistically, awareness signifies understanding, retaining, comprehending[2], and dealing with something thoughtfully it is a state of perceiving and rationally grasping an idea. According to the Dictionary of Social Sciences, awareness, both as a linguistic term and as a concept, denotes understanding and sound perception. Conceptually, it refers to an individual's perception and understanding of themselves and their surrounding environment, with varying degrees of clarity and complexity (Encyclopedia Britannica[3]).

B- Philosophers have offered varying definitions of awareness, each based on their field of study. Some equate it with wakefulness as opposed to unconsciousness, while others define it as being aware of oneself in contrast to others. However, its general meaning lies in performing a specific activity with full consciousness any activity carried out without awareness is considered devoid of consciousness. Researchers note a shared interest between philosophy and psychology in the concept of awareness, despite significant differences in meaning between the two disciplines. For instance, John Locke defined awareness as "the perception of what occurs in a person's mind, reflecting the individual's observations." He considered forms of awareness to include perceived thoughts, thinking, doubts, reasoning, knowledge, and learning intellectual matters at any given time. Similarly, Thomas Reid viewed awareness as the mind's current state. This perspective is echoed by Susan Blackmore, emphasizing that no universally agreed-upon definition of awareness exists[4].

C- Awareness (al-wa'y) is not an innate trait individuals are born with; rather, it is acquired and influenced by a society's cultural, political, economic, and social conditions[5]. In English, the term consciousness originates from the Latin root conscientious, meaning "shared knowledge." Awareness is a multifaceted phenomenon described

using various terms, such as conscious experience and awareness of consciousness, each carrying distinct meanings depending on context and individual perspectives. Therefore, generalizations about the concept are inherently limited in value [6]. The terms awareness and consciousness are often used interchangeably. However, it is more accurate to consider consciousness as a specific form of awareness, referring to a more precise understanding. It can be interpreted as to know about, indicating the reflective qualities of awareness in relation to experiences [7].

2- Definitions of Awareness from Scholars:

A- Karl Marx defines social awareness as "the sum of ideas, theories, opinions, social feelings, customs, and traditions present among people, reflecting their objective reality." He emphasizes that social awareness is characterized by complexity and diversity, evolving as people's social existence changes. Marx also highlights the concept of relative autonomy in the development of social awareness, meaning that while it is influenced by social conditions, it can also progress independently. This independence is evident in the continuous development of societal consciousness, which, in turn, can positively impact social existence [8]. According to Marx, humans surpass animals through their capacity for awareness. This awareness begins when humans start producing means of sustenance, initially shaped by natural conditions and resources. Thus, as people produce these means, they simultaneously create both their material and intellectual lives [9].

B- Olidov describes social awareness as "the reproduction of social reality through ideas, visions, and perceptions during a specific historical phase" [10].

C- Al-'Urifi views social awareness as "a reflective mental orientation that enables a person to be aware of themselves and their environment to varying degrees of clarity and complexity." This orientation includes: awareness of one's physical and mental functions, awareness of the goals of the surrounding world, recognition of oneself as a human being within society, recognition of oneself as a member of a social group, and understanding the relationships between social phenomena, the situations one encounters, and the values and norms that shape one's responses in these situations [11].

D- Charles Cooley emphasizes that social consciousness or awareness of society cannot be separated from self-consciousness, as we can hardly think of ourselves without referencing some type of social group, nor can we think of a social group without relating it to ourselves. The two concepts go hand in hand. What we are truly aware of is nothing more or less than a complex personal or social whole. In general, much of our reflective awareness of our conscious mental states thus becomes social awareness, since our sense of our relationship with others or the relationships others have with one another inevitably becomes part of this awareness. The self and society are twins; understanding one occurs simultaneously with understanding the other [12].

E- Fargali Haroun defines awareness as "a mental orientation that enables an individual to perceive themselves and their surrounding environment to varying degrees of clarity and complexity." This implies that awareness is not the same for everyone; its level and intensity of development differ from person to person [13].

3- Awareness as a Product of Human Creation and the Harvest of Experiences:

Awareness is the result of human creation and the culmination of experiences. All these experiences undergo a filtering process within the human mind, forming awareness a mental state that enables individuals to perceive the truths surrounding them. This awareness develops through communication and interaction within the lived societal framework. It involves the integration of perceptions, concepts, and subjective or objective feelings into cognitive truths, faith-based convictions, assumptions, tendencies, emotions, collective attitudes, and behavioral patterns that reflect the realities of the existing social context [14]. Awareness among individuals is not limited to themselves alone; it extends to include others who share in this awareness, referred to as collective awareness or the awareness of others'

needs [15]. As the conditions of awareness act as a bridge between awareness and the lived reality of humans i.e., their social practices awareness, as it passes through specific conditions, plays a significant role in shaping society [16].

4- The Researcher's Perspective:

Based on the above, it may be appropriate to define social awareness as: "The mental image an individual has of their social reality, represented by a set of ideas, feelings, and behaviors that express their perception of this reality, which is often derived from it and then returns to influence the individual's understanding of it, shaping their response toward it" [17]. Therefore, awareness is operationally defined by studying individuals' knowledge, attitudes, values, practices, and behaviors in different situations related to their present and future, such as in education, work, marriage, and political participation. Social awareness differs from one society to another, depending on the dominant concepts among its members and the nature of their understanding of these concepts in relation to their present, future, and higher values.

5- Levels and Dimensions of Awareness:

A- Psychology distinguishes between several levels of awareness: automatic awareness, perceived awareness, and shared awareness. Automatic awareness represents the lowest level of awareness, as it is more related to intuition than to perception. Perceived awareness is acquired by an individual during their social upbringing from a young age. Educational institutions and social organizations play an important role in developing the ability to perceive the characteristics of the individual's environment. These institutions also provide conscious emotional experiences that enable the individual to overcome dangers, confront them, and prevent them [18].

B- William Darity emphasizes that "levels of awareness" generally include the following [19]: cognitive consciousness: This encompasses phenomena such as thinking and knowing facts about a particular field, and phenomenal consciousness (or alternatively, experiential consciousness): A sleeping person who does not dream has no current experiences, and thus is not consciously aware in the phenomenal

sense. In contrast, a waking person typically has sensory and perceptual experiences, feels emotions, and enjoys mental images. control consciousness: in understanding oneself and others, awareness plays a role in controlling behavior, whether consciously or unconsciously [20].

C- Awareness can be divided into process and phenomenon. The process of awareness (Access Process) works with the information in our minds for verbal and logical purposes related to behavioral control. When we look, contemplate, or remember something, all of this operates within the framework of the awareness process. On the other hand, awareness as a phenomenon (phenomenal) deals with the experience itself, including sensations, colors, or colorful shapes, and emotions [21].

D- There are other levels of social awareness, such as individual (personal) awareness, which is defined by the individual's existence in a particular society [22]. This level of awareness is characterized by subjectivity, where the individual is a receiver, and it is limited to the level of perception [23]. It has a social content that includes the individual's personal existence, the class they belong to, and the spiritual and material environment that influences their individual existence. Individual awareness is shaped by the specific circumstances of individuals and the nature of the group or social class they belong to, which forms the environment that defines them. There is also mass awareness, collective awareness, or societal awareness, which is defined by collective existence and is a direct result of the social relationships within society. While individual awareness remains at the level of perception, collective awareness elevates individual awareness to the level of conception through its dialectical relationships and its benefit from history, science, and various knowledge [24]. Collective awareness represents the highest and most advanced form of social awareness. The concept of collective conscience is similar to collective awareness and is mentioned in the works of French sociologist Émile Durkheim. It has various aspects, including being called popular awareness, the moral conscience of peoples, common

sense, the psychological life of society, public awareness, and the mentality of groups [25].

Charles Cooley emphasizes that awareness of society cannot be separated from self-awareness, as we can hardly think of ourselves without referring to some type of social group, nor can we think of a group without referring to ourselves. The two concepts go hand in hand, and what we are truly aware of is nothing more or less than the complex personal or social whole [26].

6- The Conceptual Framework of Egyptian National Security

A. There is no consensus on the definition of national security, which has led to significant concern among thinkers and decision-makers. This is due to the nature of the subject and the many variables that cannot be precisely measured, as they are approximate. The issue of security differs among individuals and groups based on their awareness, perception, and understanding of the threats they face and the actions required to achieve national security [27].

B- National Security Definition: Egyptian national security refers to "the ability to provide the highest level of protection and stability to achieve comprehensive development in all fields: political, economic, social, ideological, military, environmental, and informational. It utilizes all available means to protect the country from all types of internal and external threats, whether regional or global, in order to achieve the national goals of the state" [28].

C. The modern approach to national security focuses on the security of both the citizen and the nation. Any harm to the state's activities or its vital institutions reflects negatively on both the nation and its people. It includes protecting the state, its territory, and its people from external attacks by military forces. It also includes safeguarding the country's economic, political, cultural, social, and internal and external resources, addressing issues in all these fields, and protecting vital national interests that may be threatened at certain levels[29]. This requires awareness among citizens to confront various dangers and challenges, emphasizing the importance of human resources in reinforcing national security.

D. With the changing international landscape, security threats today extend beyond traditional threats to include poverty, economic injustice, diseases, human rights violations, environmental pollution, and natural disasters, all linked to the concept of human security [30]. The concept of human security is considered a modern approach to comprehensive contemporary national security, as it focuses on individuals and highlights non-traditional threats to security, particularly those related to the human cost of armed conflicts. This represents a qualitative addition to political and strategic security thought.

Second. The Impact of Community Awareness on Egyptian National Security in the Social Domain

1. The Relationship Between Community Awareness and Egyptian National Security:

A. The primary goal of Egyptian national security is focused on the value of the human being. The broad popular base, especially the youth, is the cornerstone of national security. Therefore, community awareness plays a critical role in safeguarding the country's security and integrity by addressing various political, economic, and social challenges. The internal front and the increase in community awareness are crucial for confronting external interventions, propaganda, or psychological warfare used to affect citizens, create sectarian or tribal tensions, or divide and reshape society. Thus, community awareness is integral to achieving national security.

B. Although awareness, belonging, loyalty, and identity are internal feelings and ideas, they significantly influence an individual's relationship with their homeland. This influence affects national security in all its aspects positively and negatively. If a citizen's awareness is correctly shaped, and their sense of belonging to the country is nurtured, they will act with maturity and positivity, even sacrificing their life to protect the nation. Conversely, a lack of awareness can lead to disengagement and weakened loyalty. In today's world, where youth are increasingly manipulated by misinformation and the tools of the Fourth Industrial Revolution,

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maintaining national identity and awareness is vital to protect national security from external and internal threats, including the influence of "Fourth-Generation Warfare" and its modern tactics[31].

2. Factors Affecting the Formation of Awareness:

A. Media and Social Awareness Formation:

Media plays a crucial role in shaping awareness by providing information and influencing public perception. The media operates within a specific ideological framework, which is affected by technological changes and cultural shifts, thus impacting social systems and human emotions. Understanding how the media works helps in understanding the social and cultural changes occurring in societies.

B. The Role of the Family and Socialization:

The family is responsible for fulfilling the individual's needs and preserving cultural identity. Early childhood socialization is a key factor in forming an individual's awareness of their surroundings and maintaining their sense of self in relation to their society.

C. The Role of Religious Discourse:

Religious discourse should not be static; it must evolve in line with social and technological changes to positively affect the awareness and security of Egyptian society. It should be adjusted to fit contemporary issues, addressing the needs and challenges facing the nation.

D. Traditions and Customs:

Customs and traditions are an essential part of social life. These practices, often initiated by individuals, can spread and become integral to society's way of life. They shape both personal and collective identity.

E. Culture and Community Awareness:

Culture and society are interdependent there is no culture without society, and vice versa. Societies are shaped and organized by their culture, and without it, they risk degenerating into disorganized entities.

3- The Impact of Community Awareness on Social Security in Egypt

Positive Effects of Community Awareness[32]:

A - The presence of national youth leaders both domestically and abroad.

B - Encouraging youth to participate in community activities within the country.

C - Raising awareness among youth about their rights and duties, which ensures effective participation in society.

D - Enhancing the concept of citizenship among Egyptians abroad, particularly among Egyptian expatriate communities.

E - Maximizing communication with youth to strengthen their sense of belonging and national loyalty, especially among the youth of Nubia, Siwa, Hala'ib, Shalateen, Sinai, and Matrouh.

F - Strengthening the bonds of national unity within the country.

G - Providing opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles in political parties, local authorities, governorates, and ministries.

H - Confronting harmful ideas and messages about the state in modern media, social networks, and abroad through Egyptian expatriate communities.

I - Raising a generation of youth who are committed to their beliefs and loyal to their country amidst the security challenges and threats facing Egyptian society following the so-called Arab Spring revolutions.

J - Involving youth in confronting the negative impacts of globalization, technological advancements, and Western cultural invasion in order to preserve national identity.

K - Developing societal awareness among youth is a developmental necessity and a national project that defines the country's features and its future. Youth are a key indicator of the state's and society's ability to move forward and manage the future effectively.

L - Enhancing societal awareness among youth strengthens their integration into active social, national, and productive paths, as well as their participation in all fields.

M - Increasing youth awareness of responsibility and their desire to create a more ideal society while striving for positive change.

N - Leading to the individual's commitment to their rights and preventing the relinquishment of them.

O - Leading to increased community contributions to meet individual needs, which in turn strengthens the individual's loyalty to the country.

P - Fostering loyalty and belonging among youth through their participation in all public policies related to youth and achieving the

highest level of decentralization in providing the best services to youth, especially those with special needs and those living in slums and border areas, contributing to the comprehensive development of the country.

Q - Developing loyalty and belonging among youth in line with the political leadership's priorities (President and Government), creating a generation committed to its beliefs and loyal to its country despite the security challenges facing Egypt.

R - Encouraging the care of youth and developing a spirit of loyalty and belonging, which contributes to national security by producing human resources capable of managing the country and securing its future.

S - Enabling youth to unleash their constructive energy in achieving the development that the Egyptian state is currently witnessing.

Negative Effects of Weak Community Awareness [33]:

A - The individual's sense of isolation and alienation within their own country, especially among the youth, which leads to negative behavioral patterns that are sometimes difficult to interpret.

B - The lack of societal awareness among the new generations of youth is a core issue affecting the national security of the state, as it has negative consequences on all societal institutions and exposes the country and its national security to significant threats, such as the recruitment of youth by terrorist groups who exploit this weakness against the state to weaken the internal front.

C - The lack of societal awareness leads to feelings of alienation, accompanied by negative manifestations and indifference towards society, which results in the spread of corruption and crime in all its forms, significantly affecting national security and the stability of the state.

D - The failure to establish the concept of citizenship and loyalty among youth, and the lack of fostering national culture, leads to an insufficient understanding of the challenges, threats, and risks to national security, making it easier to infiltrate and influence their thoughts and behaviors.

E - The impact on societal awareness inevitably leads to phenomena like political, religious, or even tribal or sectarian extremism, which threatens the integrity and cohesion of the country and its national security.

F - Among the manifestations of weak societal awareness are extremism, radicalism, and the emergence of violence in society, which promotes sectarian loyalties that are not in the interest of national security.

G - Weak societal awareness weakens loyalty and belonging among youth, leading to an imbalance between globalization, cultural invasion, and the national identity of the state.

H - Youth's reluctance to engage in political participation, especially in presidential and parliamentary elections, whether in candidacy, voting, or supervision.

I - Youth's reluctance to engage in political party work, whether by participating or taking on key or leadership roles in political parties.

J - Youth's reluctance to participate in community service and volunteer work. In conclusion, enhancing community awareness is critical to Egypt's national security. An informed, engaged youth population can drive the country towards greater unity, stability, and resilience against internal and external challenges.

Third: Results of the Study and Recommendations

Results of the Study

1. Methods and Approaches to Enhancing Community Awareness Among Youth:

A. Education:

Education plays a crucial role in promoting community awareness by fostering positive values and attitudes towards society. It provides the necessary skills to address societal issues and modify behaviors, which is essential for successful interaction with society, ensuring stability across different segments of the population.

B. Community Education:

The concept of community education emerged as a mechanism to raise awareness in remote areas that lack full access to formal educational services. It represents a non-traditional form of education, providing learning opportunities to marginalized and disadvantaged groups, including children who have not entered basic education or have dropped out [34].

C. Role of Government Initiatives:

The Egyptian government has launched several initiatives aimed at improving awareness

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through basic education, such as the "Takaful and Karama" initiative, which requires that children of families receiving support must attend school. These efforts aim to reduce school dropouts and ensure widespread awareness [35].

D. Utilizing Technology in Education:

The use of technology in education helps achieve Egypt's educational goals more efficiently. This, in turn, contributes to spreading community awareness, especially among the youth. Reports show significant progress in education, as Egypt advanced in global knowledge and education quality indices [36].

E. Media Awareness Campaigns:

Media awareness campaigns play a vital role in educating individuals, shaping their awareness, and equipping them with various knowledge and information [37]. This is due to the media's influential power on one hand, and the advancements in technology, information, and open communication spaces on the other. These factors have contributed significantly to guiding and addressing diverse segments of society across all levels. Egypt ranks first in terms of the number of social media users, as per statistics from late 2021 [38], particularly after the country entered the era of satellites. While social media plays an important role in spreading societal awareness, it can sometimes have negative effects that must be addressed and countered. In some instances, social media is misused to distort or obscure societal awareness, especially among younger generations or individuals lacking the general knowledge necessary to discern what to benefit from and what to disregard. This highlights the dangers of social media and biased or manipulated media outlets that aim to undermine societal awareness, spread pessimism, and instill despair among youth and other segments of society.

F. Design and Implementation of Smart Applications:

Smartphone applications offer a powerful way to reach large segments of Egyptian society, including youth, by promoting community values and addressing societal issues. These applications provide an effective means of enhancing awareness, particularly among young people.

G. Fieldwork in Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations:

Collaboration between government agencies and civil society organizations is crucial for spreading awareness, especially in underserved and impoverished areas. Field campaigns in these areas can help overcome the challenge of reaching or convincing communities with low levels of awareness.

H. Psychological Rehabilitation and Its Role in Community Awareness:

Psychological rehabilitation is essential for improving community awareness. Mental health enables individuals to handle life stresses, realize their potential, and contribute positively to society. Addressing mental health is crucial for reinforcing community awareness and fostering individual and collective well-being.

I. Role of Art in Building Community Awareness:

Art plays a significant and purposeful role in elevating humanity, refining emotions, and expanding human perspectives. It serves as an effective medium to enrich human experiences, hone skills, and promote constructive values that strengthen societal cohesion across various fields.

Art also fulfills a critical analytical role by shedding light on societal issues, analyzing and critiquing them. Thus, art can play a pivotal role in building awareness, combating extremism, and bolstering society's resilience against extremist organizations. Moreover, it contributes to shaping human awareness, including societal awareness [39].

Through its various forms, art has a substantial impact on addressing key societal issues. By embodying these issues and values in dramatic and theatrical works, art fosters a sense of belonging among youth and other members of society. This positively influences the development of societal awareness, thereby promoting security, peace, and stability within the community [40].

2. Key Sources of Community Awareness Formation:

A. Religion
B. The Family Institution
C. Educational Institutions
D. Media
E. Civil Society Organizations
F. Arts and Literature
G. Social Interactions
H. Technological Advancements and Communication Channels

Recommendations

1. Organize seminars with experts in information security and law to educate youth on the

dangers of rumors and the importance of legal measures to combat misinformation.

2. Raise awareness among youth about the risks associated with technological advancements, social media, and artificial intelligence, as well as related cybercrimes. Implement necessary regulations on social media platforms to safeguard youth from harmful content.

3. Promote educational projects that incorporate technology and develop Egyptian-made educational software to counteract the negative effects of globalization, ensuring that youth retain their Egyptian cultural identity.

4. Create national programs to nurture talented youth and innovative ideas, integrating them into media institutions to produce quality content that enhances community awareness.

5. Strengthen media campaigns that focus on the achievements of the state, such as economic development and national security efforts, while addressing societal issues and proposing solutions, particularly targeting youth.

6. Include national security awareness within school and university curricula to foster a deeper understanding of Egypt's security challenges.

7. Initiate national dialogues on community awareness that involve various societal groups, particularly youth, to foster trust and strengthen the relationship between the citizens and the state.

8. Enhance family awareness, especially for couples before marriage, to build a well-informed family capable of educating the next generation and contributing to societal development.

9. Raise awareness among youth about the psychological warfare tactics employed by external forces aiming to weaken Egyptian identity and national security.

10. Sustain media campaigns that highlight positive role models who have contributed to societal development, especially among youth, addressing issues like drug abuse, digital addiction, etc.

11. Establish and expand public opinion measurement units within state institutions, using AI tools to analyze public sentiments and inform decision-making processes.

12. Creating a Comprehensive Egyptian News Network: Establish a comprehensive Egyptian news network that operates in multiple languages to reach a global audience, ensuring that accurate and balanced information is disseminated.

13. Focusing on Community Awareness to Strengthen National Security: Emphasize the importance of community awareness in fostering national security, promoting values such as duty before rights, tolerance, and sacrifice for the nation. This would contribute to sustainable development and a brighter future.

14. Strengthen ties with Arab and African nations to form a united front against potential threats, exchanging expertise and information related to national security challenges.

15. Accelerate economic reforms to reduce dependency on foreign loans, boost domestic investments, and create job opportunities for youth. This will reduce vulnerability to psychological manipulation and foster national stability.

16. Increase the number of effective seminars and awareness campaigns, incorporating modern technologies and media formats to educate youth about contemporary security threats and their role in national defense.

17. Advocate for constitutional amendments to restore a dedicated Ministry of Information, overseeing all media outlets and ensuring compliance with ethical standards and promoting national awareness.

18. Develop a state-of-the-art Egyptian social media platform that aligns with Egyptian cultural values, equipped with AI capabilities to monitor and counteract misinformation.

19. Increase the number of community schools in rural and remote areas to ensure equal educational opportunities for all Egyptian children, helping to enhance community awareness nationwide.

Conclusion:

In recent years, the Egyptian state has placed significant emphasis on many issues affecting the national security of Egyptian society, prioritizing the Egyptian citizen, especially the youth. This is reflected in numerous presidential initiatives under the banners of education, health, and the development of the Egyptian citizen. Additionally, efforts have been made to raise awareness of the challenges that Egyptian society must confront, which could negatively affect the community, especially the youth. A prime example of this is the establishment of the National Council for Awareness, which aims to enhance, develop, spread, and protect societal awareness, contribute to ensuring its practice, and establish values of equality, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination in society.

Awareness, especially among the youth, comes through the accumulation of experiences and knowledge by the individual. Knowledge is power, and it is considered the starting point for enhancing societal awareness. It is the result of accumulated knowledge gained through lived experiences, indicating that it requires personal effort to achieve. This then becomes a collective behavior through the spread and sharing of individual experiences to benefit from positive experiences, knowledge, and different cultures, which enrich and strengthen awareness among individuals within the same community, starting at the smallest level, such as the family, and expanding to larger levels, ultimately reaching society as a whole.

Amid the technological revolution dominating the world, Egyptian youth have been exposed to the negative aspects of social media, including lies, rumors, and misleading messages that are not only far from the truth but are often targeted, aiming to mislead public opinion and cloud the awareness of the youth. This leads to the fragmentation and weakening of Egyptian society, necessitating the development of cultural, psychological, and societal awareness to build the Egyptian citizen, restore trust and reassurance, and support Egyptian social security.

This study reviewed the conceptual framework of societal awareness, some definitions of it, and its levels and dimensions. It then examined the impact of societal awareness on Egyptian national security, particularly in the social field and youth sector. The study also presented the conceptual framework of Egyptian national security, the relationship between societal awareness and national security, and how societal awareness affects Egyptian social security, especially for the youth. The study concluded with a set of findings and recommendations that may benefit decision-makers, particularly highlighting the sources of shaping societal awareness and methods for disseminating it among Egyptian youth.

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First Section

Strategic Studies

Enhancing Societal Awareness Among Egyptian Youth to Achieve National Security

■ *Major General/ Ismail Sayed Ismail*

Consultant of Military Academy for Postgraduate Studies and Strategy

Abstract:

Social media platforms, communication tools, and various media outlets have introduced numerous challenges, problems, and cultural shifts in an era marked by the emergence of trends, values, ethics, and lifestyles that may align or conflict with Egyptian culture. This underscores the urgent need to enhance societal awareness and implement psychological guidance and training to ensure that Egyptian society especially its youth interacts in a balanced and constructive manner, both individually and collectively.

It is essential to promote positive awareness and psychological education in schools, universities, media, cultural institutions, and other professional, labor, and agricultural organizations, as well as across all state institutions. This cultural initiative must align with the latest global theories on enhancing societal awareness and mental health while respecting Egyptian culture, traditions, and customs. Any aspects that conflict with these should either be adapted or discarded to avoid undesirable outcomes.

Additionally, Egyptian ministries such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, and Ministry of Social Solidarity, alongside universities, institutes, and schools, should collaborate in designing and implementing mental health programs for youth. These programs should be developed and executed by trained professionals to ensure that Egyptian youth are equipped with a healthy psychological foundation. This will enable them to build a balanced society rooted in ethical values, capable of safeguarding the nation and fortifying it from within. This preparedness will ensure resilience against external threats and risks, contributing effectively to national security.

Keywords: Societal Awareness, National Security.

تعزيز الوعى المجتمعى لدى الشباب المصرى لتحقيق الأمن القومى

■ **لواء أ.ح/ إسماعيل سيد إسماعيل**

مستشار الأكاديمية العسكرية للدراسات العليا والاستراتيجية

المستخلص :

فرضـت وسائل الاتصـال والتواصل الاجتماعى ووسـائل الإعلام العديد من التحديات والمشـكلات والتغيرات الثقافية فى عصـر يشـهد ظهور اتجاهات وقيم وأخلاقيات وأسـاليب حياة قد تتفق أو تختلف مع الثقافة المصرية مما يؤكد ضرورة تعزيـز الوعـى المجتمعى وتفعيل الإرشـاد والتأهيل النفسـى؛ حتى يتفاعل المجتمع المصرى -خاصـة الشـباب- بأسـلوب سـوى على مسـتوى الأفراد وأيضـا على مستوى الجماعات، لذا لابد من نشـر الوعى الإيجابى والثقافة النفسية فى المدارس والجامعات والمؤسسات الإعلامية والثقافية، والمؤسسات العمالية والمهنية والزراعية وباقى مؤسسات الدولة المختلفة، على أن تتواكب هذه الثقافة مع أحدث النظريات العالمية فى تعزيزالوعى المجتمعى والصحة النفسية ومراعاة ما يتناسب مع ثقافة المجتمع المصرى وعاداته وتقاليده ومحاولة تطويع ما لا يتفق معها أو تركه تمامًا كى لا يعطى نتيجة عكسـية غيـر محمودة أو مأمونة العواقب، وكذلك دعوة الوزارات المصـرية ذات الصـلة كوزارات التربيـة والتعليم، والتعليم العالى، والتضامن الاجتماعى وغيرها، بالإضافة للجامعات والمعاهد والمدارس للمشاركة فى إعداد وتنفيذ برامج الصحة النفسية للشـباب يتم العمل عليها من خلال كوادر مدربة، لضـمان بناء الشـباب المصـرى ووعيه ببنية نفسـية سوية قادرة على بناء مجتمع صحى متوازن قائم على قيم وأخلاقيات متزنة تحمى الوطن وتقويه من الداخل لتكون جاهزة لمجابهة التهديدات والمخاطر التى قد يتعرض لها من الخارج، بما يحقق الأمن القومى بشكل إيجابى فعال.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الوعى المجتمعى ، الأمن القومى.