Journal





Middle East

Journal of Public Relations Research Middle East

Scientific refereed Journal - Supervision by Egyptian Public Relations Association - Twelfth Year - Fifty-first Issue - April / June 2024 Arcif Impact Factor 2023 = 2.7558 Q1 IF of the Supreme Council of Universities 2023 = 7 ICR IF 2021/2022 = 1.569

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(ISSN 2314-8721)

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Journal of Public Relations Research Middle East (JPRRME)

Scientific Refereed Journal Fifty-first Issue - Twelfth Year - April / June 2024

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Publications: Al Arabia Public Relations Agency

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ISSN for the printed copy

(ISSN 2314-8721)

ISSN of the electronic version

(ISSN 2314-873X)

Egyptian National Scientific & Technical Information Network (ENSTINET)

Egyptian Public Relations Association

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Deposit Number: 24380 /2019

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The Journal is indexed within the following international digital databases:









JPRR.ME No.48 45

Electronic Dialogic Communication in Digital Platforms of the Saudi Ministry of Health Sector

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Abstract

The current study investigates the Use of Saudi Ministry of Health the principles of electronic dialogic communication and communication strategies in its publications on its official account on X platform. It also evaluates the publications' success or failure in communicating with the general public, establishing relations with them and maintaining these relations.

To accomplish these goals, this study analyzes the content of what the Saudi Ministry of Health published on its official account on X platform over a year, choosing Systematic Random Sampling. In its analysis, this study applied the dialogical communication theory developed by Kent and Taylor (1998), and Ruler's Situational Model of Communication Strategies (2004).

The study found that 50% of the publications employed the principle of usefulness of information, 21.9% employed the principle of the dialogue pool, 15.6% employed the principle of conservating of visitors, and 21.6% employed the principle of generating return visits.

The findings of this study can be attributed to the nature of the publications of the Saudi Ministry of Health, a non-profit government sector that focuses on disseminating information in one direction. The results also showed that the media strategy was employed extensively, while consensus-building strategy was absent. There was also a decrease in the use of the dialogue strategy.

All of this showed that the Saud Ministry of Health used its official account on X platform to tell the pubic its lates news and instructs them in matters relate to public health. It is evident that the ministry used X platform in this fashion more than it used it to establish a dialogic communication with the public. The implication here is that the ministry used X platform as a one-way communication channel, very much like traditional media. The study also proved that there was a correlating statistical significance between the availability of dialogic communication principles in the Saud Ministry of

^(*) The Paper was received on March 11, 2024, and was accepted for publication on May 28, 2024. It was extracted from the doctoral dissertation for the purpose of completing the requirements of scientific discussion.



Health's publications on its official account on the X platform and the level of audience interaction. There is also a correlating statistical significance between the type of communication strategy employed in the Ministry of Health's publications on its official account on X platform and the level of audience interaction. Therefore, the study recommends that the staff in charge of managing the Saud Ministry of Health's accounts on X platform should work to increase the level of audience interaction with their publications and utilize all the dialogic capabilities of the platform to engage the public, listen to them, and respond to their questions and suggestions.

Keywords: Electronic Dialogic Communication, Communication Strategies, Saudi Ministry of Health, X Platform.