

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

One of the objectives of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is the inclusion of women in development. Some previously unattainable and illegal women's rights are now legal according to Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. By creating facilities and passing laws that liberate women, women's rights are upheld. Women's rights in the workplace, women's rights in public and political life, women's rights in sports and physical education, and women's rights in the economic and social field are among these rights. For the example, Saudi Arabia today offers plenty of room for women to participate in public life. The rule is followed, not merely spoken about. Through the Saudi Arabia 2030 Vision, woman can be included in a variety of professions. Several measures aim to make Saudi Arabia more contemporary, welcoming, and open to foreign visitors. Despite fierce pushback from conservatives, this is at least depicted in the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030. Saudi Arabia has seen a lot of changes in the economic, social, and cultural field, and these changes have already improved the lives of Saudi women. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 demonstrates the country's strong governmental commitment to advancing women's rights, expanding their level of economic participation, and developing their capacities. Property rights for women are linked to domestic violence or violence against women, gender control over economic resources, gender discriminatory practices, and human rights issues. By granting women the ability to own property, discrimination, domestic abuse, and other human rights violations will be less likely to occur. Giving women the right to own property also benefits women's empowerment and political engagement.

In implementing human rights, women's rights are the same as men's rights, and these rights, as agreed by the international community, are included in the CEDAW Convention. Women's human rights are rights that are owned by a woman, either because she is a human being or as a woman. In the realm of human rights law, arrangements can be found in various legal systems regarding human rights. Human rights apply universally to all people. This means that everyone has the right to protection of their human rights and freedoms (Smith et al., 2018).

The fulfilment of each of our rights must also be equal for all people, and free from discrimination. As with human rights issues, property rights for women are linked to gender

discriminatory practices, gender control over economic resources, the right to work and domestic violence or violence against women. Granting property rights to women means reducing threats of discrimination, domestic violence, and other human rights violations. Granting property rights to women also has a positive impact on political participation and women's empowerment (Khairunnisa, 2018).

Before Saudi Vision 2030 existed, views and treatment of women in Saudi Arabia were generally very conservative and limited by a strict interpretation of Islamic sharia law. Some of the main characteristics regarding the position of women in Saudi society before these reforms include restrictions on participation in public life, legal restrictions, and restrictions on mobility. Before Saudi Vision 2030, women's participation in the employment and higher education sectors was very limited. Although women are allowed to work and receive education, they are faced with several obstacles and demands, including gender segregation in the workplace and educational institutions. Saudi women are also not allowed to drive, and they also need permission from a male guardian to travel abroad, or even access some health services. In addition, women also have fewer legal rights than men. For example, women's evidence in court is only half the value of men's evidence, even though gender equality is one of our human rights, the right to live with dignity, freedom from fear, and freedom to make life choices is not only reserved for women. Thus, men and women inherently need have the same rights (Zulifan, 2021).

Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 is a reality aims to achieve human development, participation in community development and education. Also, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is a reform plan to change Saudi Arabia's State Economy published by King Salman. One of a focus of economic reform towards gender equality. According to one of the goals of Saudi Arabia's 2030 Vision is to reduce discrimination against woman. Therefore, through the Vision of Saudi Arabia 2030, woman can be involved in the various fields. There are several policies that want Saudi Arabia to be more modern, open, and friendly for foreign tourists. This is at least reflected in the Saudi Vision 2030, despite strong opposition from conservatives. Numerous changes in the economic, social, and cultural sectors have been taking place in Saudi Arabia, and they have already had a favourable effect on the lives of Saudi women. The strong political commitment to empowering women, increasing their degree of economic engagement, and enhancing their skills and knowledge is reflected in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 (Allmnakrah & Evers, 2020).

Women in Saudi Vision 2030 have a very important role in the social, economic and cultural reform process in Saudi Arabia. Vision 2030, introduced by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is an ambitious plan to diversify the economy and reduce the country's dependence on oil. In this vision, women are considered the main pillars in the country's future development. Women's participation in development is one of the goals of Vision Saudi Arabia 2030. Some women's rights that did not yet exist and were forbidden are now made possible by the presence of Vision Saudi Arabia in 2030. Women's rights are upheld through providing facilities and enacting laws that liberate women. These rights include women's rights in public and political life, the right to engage in sports and physical education, women's rights in the workplace, and women's rights in the economic and social spheres. For example, Saudi Arabia is now providing wide space for women to fill the public sphere. The policy is not just a figment but also practiced. Women are one of the main pillars in achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030. Through legal reform, increasing economic participation, education and leadership, women play a key role in pushing Saudi Arabia towards a more inclusive, modern and competitive society. By giving women more freedom and opportunities, Saudi Vision 2030 not only empowers women, but also strengthens the country's economy and social life sector. With the launch of Saudi Vision 2030, the Saudi Arabian government began implementing a series of reforms to increase the role and rights of women in society which are also beneficial for women (Hardiyanti & Yuniati, 2021).

Women in Saudi Arabia play a very important role in the country's transformation process. With supportive reforms, they are increasingly empowered in social, economic, educational and political aspects. This is not only beneficial for them individually but also for the development of Saudi society. Gender equality and women's empowerment are key to achieving the country's long-term vision and creating a more just and prosperous future for all.

## **1.2. Research Question**

“How does the Saudi Arabian government implements Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 in the field of woman’s equality?”

## **1.3. Theoretical Framework**

### **1.3.1. Liberal Feminism Theory**

Liberal feminist theory is a branch of feminism that focuses on gender equality through legal reform and public policy. Liberal feminism emphasizes the importance of equal access to education, employment, and political rights for women. Gender equality according to liberal

feminists is equal rights and opportunities between men and women in the fields of education, political rights, in the family, social, cultural, economic, and so on.(Tong Rosemary, 2019).

In this case, with the various problem that has existed, the theory of equality in liberal feminism theory is relevant. This equality theory emphasizes that women must have the same rights and opportunities as men in all aspects of life, including education, work and politics. Proponents of this theory argue that gender-based discrimination should be eliminated through legal and public policy changes that ensure equal treatment. Liberal feminism's primary objective is to bring about gender equality by systemic changes that function within the current framework. This entails enacting legislation to abolish gender discrimination, attain parity in the workplace and in schools, and provide equal access to opportunities and resources. Although it has played an important role in advancing women's rights, liberal feminism has also faced criticism for its limited focus on legal change and lack of attention to broader power structures and identity differences among women.

One of the important examples of the application of the Equality Theory in Saudi Arabia is the lifting of the ban on women driving. This reform is a significant step towards gender equality in Saudi Arabia. For decades, Saudi Arabia was the only country in the world that banned women from driving. The ban is symbolic of the wider gender gap in Saudi society, where women face many legal and social restrictions. One of the most significant reforms related to Saudi Vision 2030 is the removal of the ban on women driving, which officially came into effect on 24 June 2018. On 26 September 2017, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud issued a royal decree allowing women to drive, ending the ban. which has been around for a long time. This decree is a historic step in efforts to improve women's rights in Saudi Arabia and is part of a broader vision for modernization and social reform under Saudi Vision 2030 (Afzal & Omar, 2021).

This reform has a positive impact, one of that impacts which is in the economic sector, one of which is by allowing more women to enter the labor market, thereby contributing to economic growth. this change represents an important milestone in the broader women's rights movement in Saudi Arabia. This symbolizes a shift towards more progressive policies and greater gender equality, in line with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030. The reforms improve Saudi Arabia's image internationally, demonstrating a commitment to modernizing its society and improving women's rights (Mahernei, 2021).

Saudi Vision 2030 is an ambitious initiative that aims to reform various social, economic and political aspects in Saudi Arabia, including increasing women's rights and

participation. Using a liberal feminist perspective, Saudi Vision 2030 addresses restrictions on women's participation in public life, legal restrictions, and restrictions on mobility. The first is overcoming restrictions on participation in public life by empowering women in the workplace through economic reform and work policies. Second, overcoming legal restrictions by increasing legal access through revising laws to provide more equal rights to women. Third, overcoming mobility restrictions by means of transportation policies by lifting the driving ban for women (Al-Asfour & Khan, 2014).

#### **1.4. Hypothesis**

The Saudi Arabian government, through Saudi Vision 2030, plans to increase women's participation in the economic and educational sectors by eliminating discriminatory laws, implementing policies that support gender equality in the workplace, and raising awareness of the importance of gender equality. Vision 2030 also aims to strengthen women's rights in the public sphere, such as the right to participate in politics. The feminist theory of liberalism, which emphasizes gender equality through legal and policy reform, supports these changes by encouraging equal access to the labor market and education and the empowerment of women.

#### **1.5. Research Method**

Qualitative methods prioritize observation of phenomena and examine more into the substance the meaning of these phenomenas. The analysis and acumen of qualitative research are greatly affected by the strength of the words and sentences used. The importance of qualitative method is to give a free space to researchers to continue to find out/investigate certain cases. The author chooses to use qualitative data to explain the thesis entitled "**The Implementation of Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 In the Field of Woman's Rights**".

Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 is the subjects of research that will be the source of information from this thesis so that qualitative will be derived from sources such as journal articles, or books to explore the implementation Saudi Vision 2030 in the field of woman's equality to get an explanation of the questions asked in the previous research question and arrive at conclusions from the problems found.

#### **1.6. Scope of Research**

This thesis research is about how the government implement Saudi vision 2030 in the field of woman's right with Saudi Vision 2030 as addresses restrictions on women's participation in public life, legal restrictions, and restrictions on mobility.

## **1.7. Outline**

### CHAPTER 1

This chapter contains a description of the background, theoretical framework, and methodology of this thesis research.

### CHAPTER 2

In this chapter, the author will explain about how the position of women in Saudi society before the launch of Saudi Vision 2030 reforms and this chapter is include restrictions on the participation in public life, legal restrictions, and restrictions on mobility.

### CHAPTER 3

In this chapter, the author explains about the implementation by the government to the woman field after the launch of Saudi Vision 2030 in the restrictions on participation in public life, legal restrictions, and restrictions on mobility.

### CHAPTER 4

This chapter is containing a description of this research conclusions and recommendations in the form of relevant suggestions based on the research findings.