



PWS IN THE ARAB GULF STATES: THE CASE STUDY OF QATAR

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IPWSO Summit Meeting

Global Perspectives on Stigma: Understanding Intellectual
Disability and PWS Across Cultures

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LET'S ZOOM INTO QATAR'S DISABILITYSCAPE

QATAR: A FASCINATING CASE STUDY

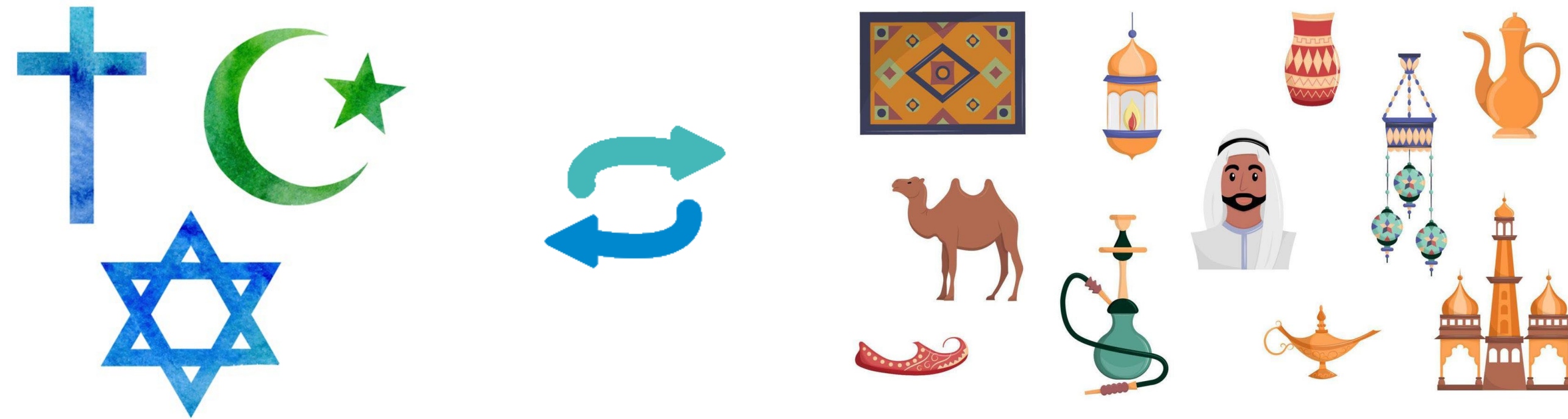


- ✓ Small state
- ✓ Small population
- ✓ Nationals comprise a minority
- ✓ About 50 years old
- ✓ No-tax regime
- ✓ High wealth status
- ✓ Sharia law
- ✓ Constitutional monarchy



LET'S TALK ABOUT STIGMA IN THE ARAB WORLD

IMPORTANT DISTINCTION



RELIGION VS. CULTURE

BENEVOLENCE ➤ WELFARE MODEL

DIMENSIONS OF STIGMA



**SUPERNATURAL
ATTRIBUTIONS**



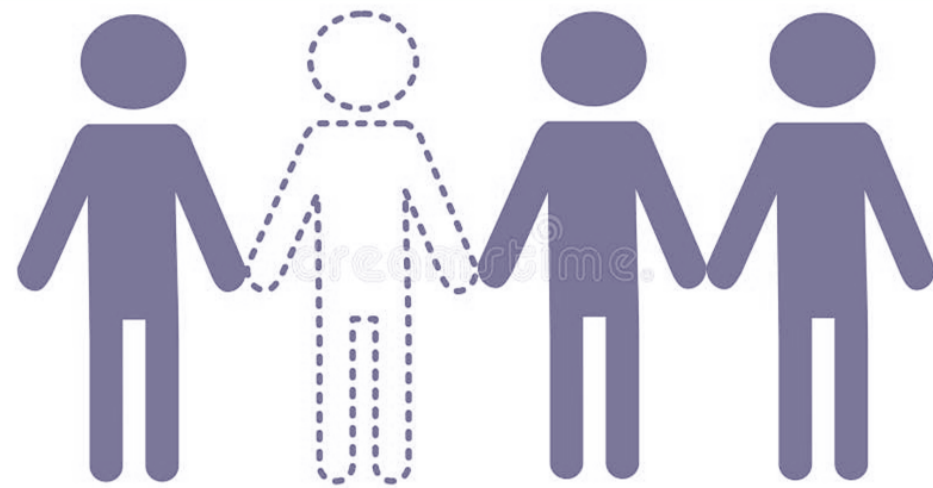
GEOGRAPHY



**GENDERED
DIMENSIONS**



**CITIZENSHIP
STATUS**



**INVISIBILITY IN THE
PUBLIC & IN DATA**



**EXPRESSIONS OF
DISABILITY**



أصحاب الهمم
People of
Determination

**REFRAMING
MINDSETS**



DIVING INTO IMPACT ON DISABILITY SERVICES



RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the **lived experiences** of **expatriate parents** in Qatar with one or more children who have disabilities?



FINDINGS: COMMON THEMES

THEME 1: Managing the diagnosis is grueling	THEME 2: Lack of information is debilitating	THEME 3: Therapy support is severely lacking	THEME 4: My child needs an education	
Struggle for diagnosis	No central information resource	The cookie-cutter model	No school will accept my child	Prohibitive financial policies and practices
I have a diagnosis... now what?	Mothers become researchers extraordinaire	The financial burden of foundational therapies	No transition into mainstream	Lack of legislative support



The slide features three decorative blue lines: one in the top-left corner pointing towards the center, one in the top-right corner pointing towards the center, and a large 'X' shape in the bottom center formed by two intersecting lines.

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the **price tag** of raising a child with a **neurodevelopmental disability** (CWND) in **Qatar**?

THE DISABILITY PRICE TAG IN QATAR

US\$ 800 to 11,000 per month

15% – 420% families' income

“It is very, very sad that children [with disabilities] are being punished because of the financial situations of their parents.” – Parent interviewee

FINDINGS: COMMON THEMES

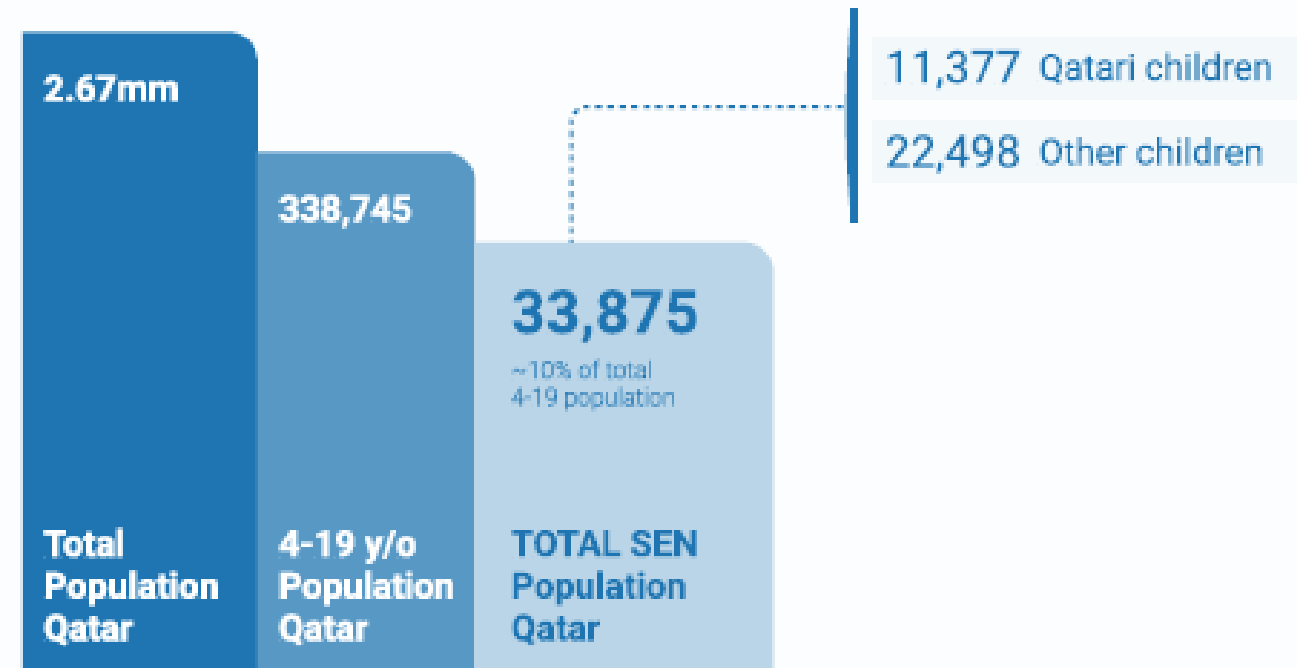
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WHY EDUCATION?

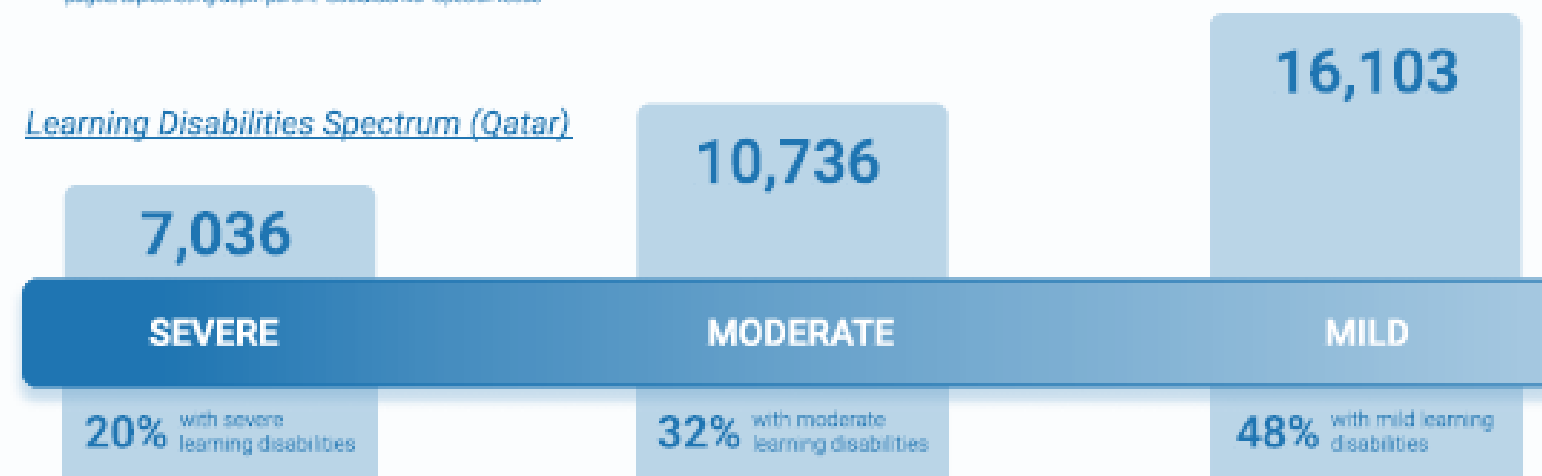
OVERWHELMING DEMAND FOR SEN EDUCATION

33,000+ school aged children in Qatar have learning disabilities



1Ministry of Planning & Statistics Authority 2021, <https://www.psa.gov.qa/en/statistics/1/pages/topics/song.aspx?parent=Social&child=SpecialNeeds>

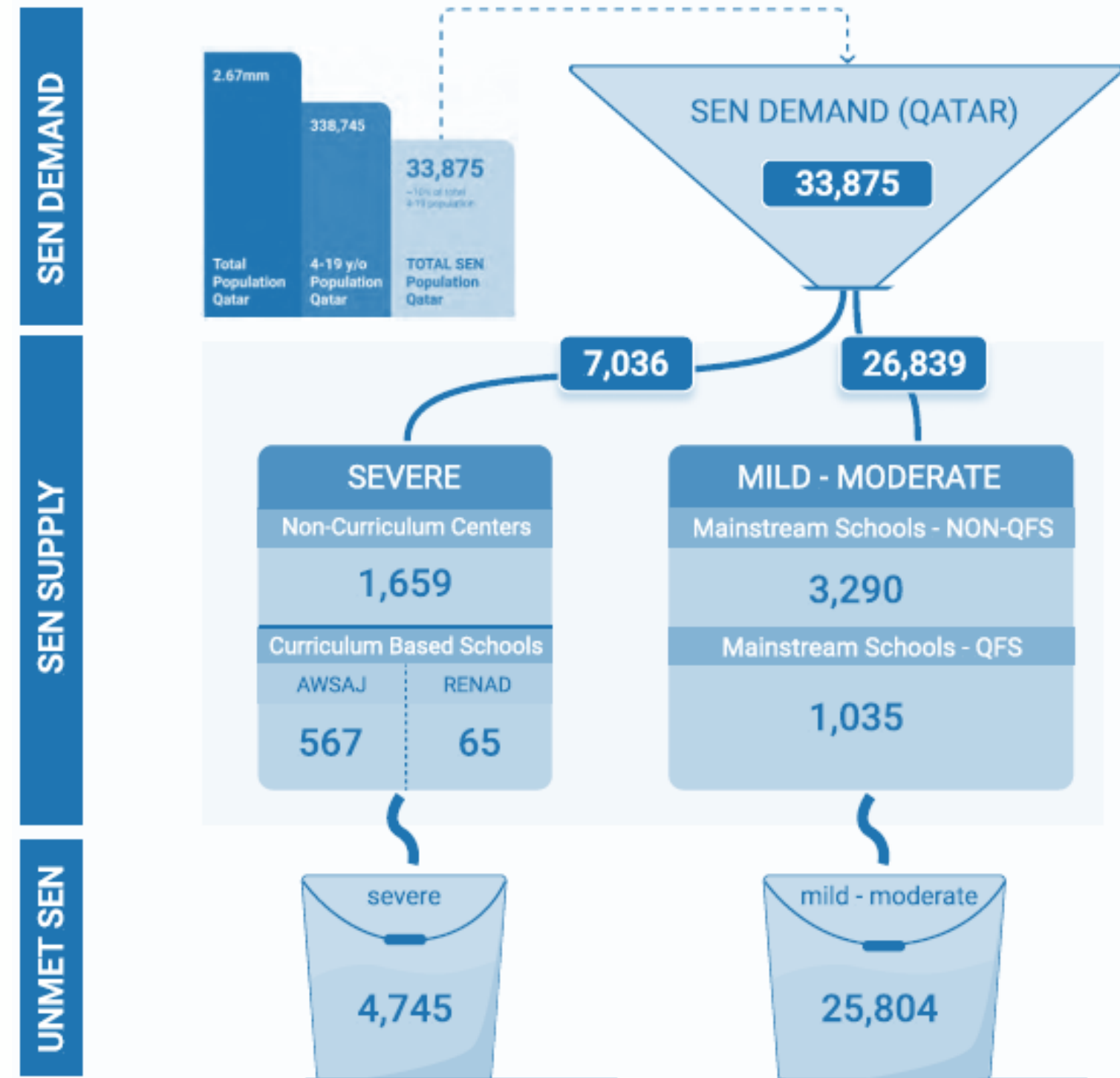
Learning Disabilities Spectrum (Qatar)



~2,900 Qatari children 4-19 years have severe learning disabilities

UNDERWHELMING SUPPLY FOR SEN EDUCATION

30,000+ school aged children with unmet special education needs



LOOKING AHEAD FUTURE OF DISABILITY IN THE GULF

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HOT OFF THE PRESS!

- ▶ Law No. (22) of 2025 on persons with disabilities
- ▶ Global Disability Summit 2028



Thank you

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