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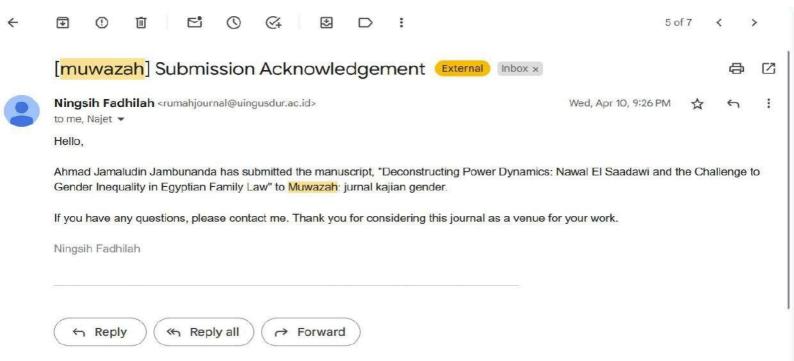
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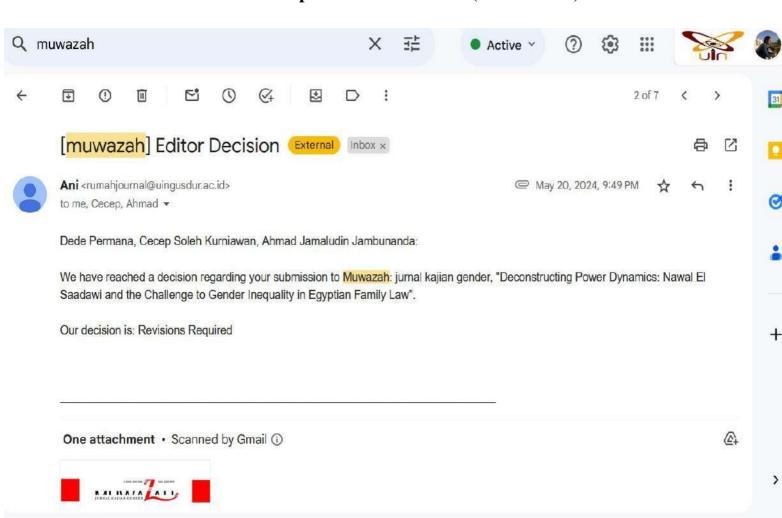
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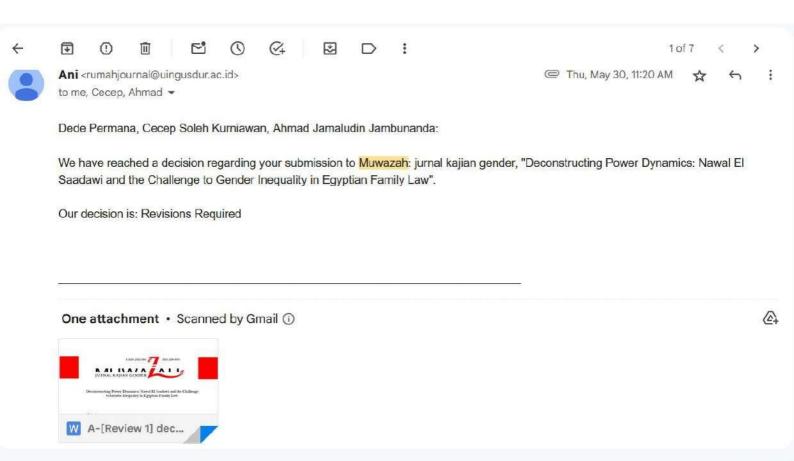
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# Deconstructing Power Dynamics: Nawal El Saadawi and the Challenge to Gender Inequality in Egyptian Family Law

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#### Abstract

The research will analyze power dynamics and challenges in achieving gender equality in Egyptian family law. The focus is on Nawal El Saadawi's role in pushing for more inclusive family law change. It found that Egyptian family law is still tied to traditional values that discriminate against women in marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance. Nawal El Saadawi, through her strategies and activism, identifies and challenges gender inequality in family law. The women's movement, creating important momentum for legal change, was able to identify loopholes and address gender inequality in the family law system. His efforts have resulted in a paradigm shift towards a more inclusive interpretation of family law. Although the implementation of legal changes is still hampered, Nawal El Saadawi has had a positive impact in improving the protection of women's rights. This research confirms the important role of women like Nawal El Saadawi as agents of social change. Her struggle has contributed significantly to the fight for gender justice and influenced changes in family law in Egypt. Future challenges include changing people's mindsets and gaining support from all sectors for fair family law certainty. This research makes a new contribution to understanding gender issues in Egyptian family law and confirms the important role of women as agents of social change. However, the fight against gender inequality continues. It is expected to increase understanding of the role of women in social change and encourage efforts to achieve gender equality and sustainability in Egypt and around the world.

Keywords: Gender Inequality, Egyptian Family Law, Legal Change, Activist Roles, Gender Equality.

#### INTRODUCTION

This study aims to comprehensively understand the power dynamics that exist in family law in Egypt as well as the challenges faced in the effort to achieve true gender equality. The research will develop concrete recommendations that can be used as a guide to address the gender gap that still exists in family law. In addition, this study will also analyze the influence of social change on existing power dynamics and the position of women (Yuniar et al., 2022, p. 82) in a family environment. To gain a broader perspective, we will also engage advocacy groups and activists focusing on gender issues and analyze relevant statistical data.

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- $1.\,$  The abstract has shown the aims and results of the research, but has not described the research methods
- 2. Explore more research findings related to the concept of power dynamics Nawal El Saadawi and challenges in achieving gender equality in Egyptian family law

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Since the beginning of the 20th century (Khoiruddin, 2001, pp. 3–4), The winds of family law reform are blowing in Muslim countries. Prominent Muslim scholars such as Sayyid Ameer Ali, Muhammad Abduh, Qassim Amin, Thahir Haddad, Fatima Mernissi, and Amina Wadud spearheaded the movement. Sayyed Ameer Ali from India championed gender equality in marriage and women's rights. Muhammad Abduh of Egypt pushed for a reinterpretation of Islamic law to address the challenges of modern times (Jambunanda, 2023). Qassim Amin, also from Egypt, criticized patriarchy and polygamy, and called for women's education and reform of marriage laws. Thahir Haddad from Tunisia succeeded in abolishing the practice of polygamy and unilateral talaq in his country. Fatima Mernissi from Morocco challenges traditions and cultures that restrict women, and pushes for a reinterpretation of the Quran in favor of gender equality. Amina Wadud from the United States challenges traditional interpretations of the Quran that are considered discriminatory against women. The thinking of these scholars has exerted a major influence on the movement for family law reform in Muslim countries. Their contributions have helped create a more just and equal society for all, both men and women (Khoiruddin, 2001, p. 9).

Despite much progress, family law reform in Muslim countries still faces many challenges. Conservatives continue to oppose change, and implementation of legal reforms has not always been easy and consistent. The gap between law and practice in the field still exists. However, the future of family law reform in Muslim countries looks bright. Scholars and activists continue to work to create a more just and equal society for all. With progressive thinking and action, it is hoped that family law in Muslim countries will continue to evolve and reflect the values of justice and equality for all. The reform of family law in Muslim countries is an ongoing and dynamic process. The thinking of Muslim scholars has played an important role in driving change, and the future of the movement looks bright.

Other figures such as Nawal el Saadawi (1931-2021) She was one of the figures who actively fought for the renewal of family law in the late 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century (Shehata, 2023, p. 25). She criticized and proposed several changes to family law in Egypt, his own country. Nawal focused his criticism on the discriminatory nature of Egyptian family law. This can be seen from restrictions on wives' space (bait at tho'ah), the relaxation of husbands' rights to polygamy and divorce wives, as well as several other

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provisions that harm women. According to Nawal, this discriminatory family law hinders the progress of human life and actually causes deterioration (El-Saadawi, 2017b, pp. 26–27).

Nawal el Saadawi (1931-2021), an Egyptian feminist, activist, physician, and psychiatrist, she is known as one of the staunch champions of family law reform in the late 20th to early 21st centuries. She critically highlighted family law in Egypt which she considered discriminatory against women, such as restrictions on wives' movement, easing polygamy and talaq rights for husbands, and various other provisions that harm women(Khoiruddin, 2001, p. 118). According to Nawal, this discriminatory family law hinders progress and actually causes deterioration in human life. Her criticism was based on her understanding of Islam and her experience as a woman in Egypt. Throughout his life, Nawal el Saadawi actively wrote books and his works raised many women's issues in Islam, including the practice of female genital mutilation. Her dedication and struggle inspired many to fight for gender equality and social justice(El-Saadawi, 2017a, p. 80).

The context of the role of this research has a very important impact in increasing gender awareness and encouraging the formation of more inclusive, equitable, and resilient policies. By conducting an in-depth analysis of data collected from various reliable sources, this research is able to reveal hidden patterns and explain complex phenomena. In addition, the study also identifies challenges faced by women and men in various aspects of life, including education, work, and health. Through deeper understanding and critical thinking, this research seeks to formulate innovative and sustainable solutions that can address the lingering gender inequality. Thus, this research has great potential to make a significant contribution in creating a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society (Goussault-Capmas et al., 2024).

Previously, there have been several studies conducted with respect to the issue of gender inequality in Egyptian family law. Some of these studies have provided a fairly good understanding of the current state of affairs and the challenges faced in efforts to achieve gender equality in the context of family law. However, there are shortcomings that need to be addressed in previous studies due to a lack of in-depth understanding of the power dynamics underlying Egyptian family law and its impact on lingering gender inequalities (Muhtarom et al., 2023, p. 39). Therefore, this research will complement previous studies by exploring further aspects that have not been revealed before. In addition, this research will

also make new contributions in this field of study by presenting a more comprehensive and in-depth perspective. Thus, it is hoped that this research can become a strong foundation for effective policy measures in improving gender equality in Egyptian family law.

Nawal el Saadawi, an Egyptian writer and women's activist, has produced many works on gender thinking. To date, however, no studies have specifically examined the relationship between his thinking and family law in Egypt. Much of Nawal el Saadawi's research focuses on her feminist ideas embodied in her works, such as in the study "Feminist Themes in Nawal el Saadawi's Novels" by Maryam Habibah(Maryam Habibah Kamis, 2015, pp. 107–112). This research shows how Nawal el Saadawi conveyed her feminist ideas and how these ideas were implemented in real life. Although research on Nawal el Saadawi's thought focuses mostly on gender issues, there is still room for more specific research on the influence of his thoughts on family law in Egypt.

Firmansyah, in his work "The Existence of Egyptian Women in the Novel Women at Point Zero by Nawal Saadawi" (Firman Syah, Fadlil Yani Ainusyamsi, 2021, p. 66), uncovering the harsh reality of Egyptian women shackled by gender injustice. The novel portrays various forms of oppression, such as marginalization, subordination, stereotypes, violence, and the additional workload that women face. In the midst of this oppression, Firmansyah also found the spirit of resistance of Egyptian women in maintaining their existence. Nawal Saadawi, through her work, gave voice to Egyptian women and demonstrated their determination to achieve freedom and equality.

The study of family law in Egypt is still fixated on its history and methods of reform. Reform efforts in the 21st century focused on the age limit for marriage, marriage registration(Khoiruddin, 2001, p. 248), Divorce procedures, polygamy, and mandatory wills. The models of takhayyur (adjustment to the situation of the times), siyasah syar'iyyah (policies based on Islamic law), and text reinterpretation (reinterpretation of religious texts) were used to update family law in Egypt(Amin & Agustar, 2023, p. 75).

There are several things to note in this study. First, a detailed analysis of Egypt's family law history and how gender views have changed over time. This will help understand the context and background of current family law. During this study, a comprehensive literature review will be conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding Egyptian family law. Comparative analysis with other countries that have different family law systems

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will also be carried out to find out the advantages and disadvantages of the existing system. By comparing the experiences and approaches of these countries, valuable lessons can be drawn to inform next policy steps.

The research will also use qualitative methodology to collect and analyze relevant sources. These data will be used to identify patterns in Egyptian family law that result in gender inequality. The results of this analysis will be the basis for drafting policy recommendations that can bring about positive changes in Egyptian family law. By involving a comprehensive range of approaches and methodologies, this research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the issue of gender inequality in Egyptian family law. Thus, this research can be a valuable reference source for the government (El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 187) and relevant institutions in improving existing policies and regulations, thus creating a fairer and more equal legal environment for all individuals, regardless of gender.

The study of relevant literature on Egyptian family law has been carried out diligently and thoroughly to gain a better understanding of the issues related to gender inequality experienced by Egyptian society. Many previous studies have identified and revealed major flaws in Egypt's family law as well as the negative impact it has on women within the country. In addition, it cannot be overlooked that literature discussing the phenomenal role of Nawal El Saadawi in the Egyptian feminist movement has also become important reading in this study. In this study, the perspective of the literature review will be a strong foundation for analyzing the problems that exist in Egyptian family law and the non-profit strategy used by Nawal El Saadawi to challenge all forms of gender inequality that still persist today. With this research, it is hoped that a more just and comprehensive solution will be found in terms of protecting and empowering women's rights in Egypt, eliminating all forms of gender discrimination, and creating significant positive changes in Egyptian society towards true gender equality (Shehata, 2023, p. 28).

This research will analyze more documents and articles, comparative research methods (Moleong, 2017) It will also be used to compare Egyptian family law with family law from other countries that have adopted a more inclusive and progressive approach to gender issues. In order to strengthen legal protection and promote social change, we can achieve true gender equality and end discrimination against women in Egypt.

The research methodology to be used in this study is a qualitative study method that involves an in-depth descriptive approach (Diantha, 2019). To gain a holistic and in-depth understanding of this topic, data will be collected through extensive literature analysis, by searching for reliable and relevant sources, and involving relevant legal documents.

Data analysis will be carried out carefully and systematically. In identifying patterns emerging from collected sources, researchers will use a comprehensive and in-depth approach (Amruddin, 2022). Any significant findings will be critically analyzed and compared to relevant social, political, and cultural contexts. In an effort to achieve gender equality, this research will explore the various challenges faced in Egyptian family law. An in-depth analysis will be conducted to understand the structural, social, and cultural barriers that may be obstacles in achieving this goal. Through this comprehensive study, it is hoped that this research can provide better insight into power dynamics in the context of Egyptian family law.

In addition, the chosen methodological approach will also provide space to engage the perspectives and direct experiences of individuals involved in the Egyptian family law system. Thus, it is expected that this research will make a significant contribution in understanding the complexity of gender issues in Egyptian family law.

# DISCUSSION

In this section, we will present an in-depth explanation of the results of our research related to the power dynamics that exist in Egyptian family law. We will conduct a very detailed analysis of the changes that have taken place in Egyptian family law and consider the implications for existing gender inequality. In addition, we will also exaggerate the impact of some of the criticisms that Nawal El Saadawi has expressed on Egyptian family law, with the aim of highlighting the problems and challenges that actually need to be addressed urgently in this context (Shehata, 2023).

Comprehensive details of some of the fundamental issues of gender inequality in family law. We will cover in detail the issues of family law procedures that are often complex and complicate access for affected individuals. Not only that, we will also expand the discussion related to the issue of polygamy(Wahib, 2014) which often gave rise to injustice and displeasure in Egyptian society. Next, we will discuss in detail the ownership of property in

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the context of Egyptian family law, which is often a determining factor in gender inequality. In addition, we will also not miss child care and wife obligations as two important aspects of family law that often result in gender injustice.

Towards the end of our explanation, we will present our comprehensive analysis of all the previously mentioned issues. We will offer practical solutions that can be implemented to improve gender equality in the context of Egyptian family law. As such, we hope that our exposure will provide a deeper understanding of the complexity of this issue and inspire concrete steps that can be taken to achieve the goal of greater equality in Egyptian family law.

#### Development of Egyptian Family Law

We analyse how these changes affect gender inequality in family law. Marriage reform, divorce, and women's rights are positive steps. However, there is still potential for further improvement to eliminate gender inequality entirely. We highlight the importance of women's empowerment and propose further measures such as reducing gaps in marriage and supporting fair divorce procedures (Zulfa et al., 2023, p. 208). These reforms can be the basis for achieving gender equality in Egypt, but require hard work and involvement from all stakeholders. The analysis is expected to inspire policymakers to push for positive changes in Egypt's family law (Khoiruddin, 2001, p. 94).

## Nawa el Saadawi's Critique of Contemporary Issues of Egyptian Family Law

We describe in detail the criticisms raised by Nawal El Saadawi against Egypt's ongoing family law. Through in-depth analysis, we see and understand the challenges faced in trying to overcome these complaints. It cannot be ignored that fighting gender injustice in Egypt is a very complex task, especially since the legal structure is still heavily dominated by patriarchal views(El-Saadawi, 2017c, p. 28). Nonetheless, Saadawi's critique is an important and courageous step on the road to change that is just and equal for all individuals.

Egypt's current family laws, by far, tend to favor men and neglect women in many aspects of their family life(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 206). This creates substantial gender inequality and cannot be ignored. One of the main challenges faced is strong resistance from those who maintain the status quo, which often leads to deadlock in efforts to secure fairer change for the rest of society.

Not only underscoring gender injustice in family law, Saadawi's criticism also emphasizes the urgency of the importance of gender equality as well as the need to fight discrimination in all its forms(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 194). Saadawi has managed to cast an authoritative voice in the struggle to achieve better gender equality, and her criticism has transformed into a kind of burning driving spirit in the effort to bring about the necessary changes in Egypt's family law.

The criticisms raised by Saadawi clearly reflect the inevitability and urgent need to change existing family laws(Mujibur Rohman & Zarkasi, 2021, p. 24). This highlights how important it is to address gender injustice that occurs in the systematic structure of family law. There is no doubt that a radical transformation must be undertaken to achieve a just and equal society for all individuals in Egypt and around the world.

#### **Administrative Technical Problems**

We identified several significant problems in Egyptian family law procedures that contribute markedly to gender inequality at an alarming rate. These problems include administrative barriers faced by women in accessing the rights they deserve easily, the lack of adequate protection for victims of domestic violence that occurs so often, and cultural stereotypes that often affect the resolution of cases related to family problems(Khoiruddin, 2001, p. 118).

In our in-depth analysis, we saw how much impact these problems in Egypt's family law procedures had on gender inequality that still exists today. We felt the need to offer a number of suggestions and recommendations to improve Egypt's rudimentary family law system. Our suggestions will not only help address existing problems, but are also expected to bring significant changes in efforts to achieve true gender equality.

## The Problem of Polygamy in Egyptian Family Law

A meticulous and in-depth investigation into the problem of polygamy in the context of family law in Egypt is very complex and diverse(Utsman Amin, 2015, p. 30). In our discussion, we not only discussed the various regulations and restrictions associated with the practice of polygamy, but we also conducted a more in-depth analysis to analyze the significant impact it had on gender inequality that still exists today. In addition, we also conducted a very critical study of the arguments that form the basis of this practice of polygamy and involve implications that greatly affect women's lives(Wahib, 2014).

Some solutions are simple but also present some comprehensive solution options to address the ongoing problem in Egyptian family law regarding polygamy. Through that, the hope is to create and realize an environment that fully respects gender equality and justice for all individuals involved in the future(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 156).

#### The Problem of the Wife's Role in the Household

We discuss comprehensively the issue of wife obedience (Bait at Thaah) in family law in Egypt that affects the wife's role in marriage. In this analysis, we explore the concept of wife obedience in the context of Egyptian family law, including the wife's role in taking care of the household and the obligation to obey the husband's orders as key pillars in marriage(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 156).

In outlining the impact of this concept on gender inequality, we discuss the social, economic, and emotional implications arising from the pressure received by wives to always be obedient. We look at how this concept can affect a woman's freedom and personal life, as well as how it can perpetuate a cycle of inequality in society.

In dealing with this problem, we argue that a change in society's view and legal system regarding wife obedience is a must. We encourage a review of traditional views on wife compliance, promoting gender equality and women's rights as new foundations in Egyptian family law.

We raise questions around the need for changes in existing social rules and norms to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for all family members. We provide critical thinking on how the removal of the concept of wife obedience can stimulate positive change in the construction of a more gender-equal society.

Through this paper, we hope to encourage dialogue and broader awareness of this issue and build support for more inclusive changes in the views of Egyptian society and the legal system regarding the role and compliance of wives in family law.

## Problems of Meeting Needs

The issue of subsistence is one of the most significant issues in Egyptian family law faced by women. Livelihood is a very important right of the wife to obtain the fulfillment of the needs of life that should be done by the husband without exception. However, it is unfortunate that there are still many cases where husbands do not fulfill this obligation, so there are many women who face difficulties in their economic fields(Zaghlul, 2015, p. 200).

In addition, it is concerning that there are also cases where husbands do not provide this provision appropriately and fairly to their wives, such as giving amounts that are far from sufficient or not in accordance with the actual economic conditions of the family. All of this inevitably creates a very visible gender injustice in terms of meeting the economic needs of the entire family, and of course puts women in a very vulnerable and threatened position(Ibn Rushd, 1994).

#### Child Custody Issues

Hadhanah is another important issue in the context of Egyptian family law. Hadhanah is the guardian right possessed by a man in deciding the marriage of his daughter. In practice, many women are victims of unfair decisions from their guardians, such as untimely marriages or with unwanted parties. This results in gender inequality in marriage, as women have no control over their own lives. Nawal El Saadawi highlights this problem in his work and challenges this injustice through critical analysis and the offer of solutions to improve Egypt's family law system(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 201).

We discussed the issue of hadhanah in Egyptian family law. We analyze the concept of guardianship and the role of the father in the determination of the life of the child after divorce. We identify problems that can arise in the implementation of hadhanah and gender equality in this regard. We also offer solutions and alternatives that can improve the protection of women's and children's rights in Egyptian family law on this issue(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 202).

#### **Understanding Problems and Formulating Solutions**

We conducted a very comprehensive analysis of the issues we discussed earlier in this report. From the results of this analysis, we earnestly offer innovative and effective solutions to improve gender equality in the context of Egyptian family law.

As a concrete step in solving the existing problem of polygamy, we propose various strategies that have the potential to reduce the negative impact of the practice on women. In addition, we also analyze the many procedural injustices that occur and offer concrete changes in the legal process to ensure fair treatment for all individuals involved.

We also conducted an in-depth study of the issue of property ownership in the context of Egyptian family law. Through our analysis, we found several loopholes and flaws in

existing regulations. Therefore, we propose concrete steps to address this problem, including clearer and firmer drafting of laws and tighter oversight of their implementation.

In addition, we also carefully consider the effect and effectiveness of our proposed legal changes. We recognize that the implementation of legal changes is complex and can involve a wide range of stakeholders. Therefore, we provide detailed recommendations to formulate better solutions, involving the active involvement of all parties concerned, in the effort to achieve true gender equality in Egypt.

In conclusion, we believe that by adopting the concrete measures we have proposed, Egypt can achieve significant progress in achieving gender equality. We hope that our recommendations and solutions can serve as a valuable guide for policymakers in addressing the complex issues associated with family law in this country.

#### Latar Belakang Nawal El Saadawi

Nawal El Saadawi is an Egyptian writer, physician, and female activist born in 1931. She has fought all her life to fight for gender equality in society, especially in the context of family law in Egypt(Shehata, 2023). El Saadawi has been a bold and powerful voice in exposing gender inequality and oppression of women in her country. In her remarkable writings, she describes the experiences and hardships experienced by many Egyptian women in the patriarchal family law system that has made her one of the pillars of the gender equality movement in Egypt and around the world. El Saadawi's background as a physician gives her a unique perspective on the devastating impact that gender inequality has had on the lives of Egyptian women and she valiantly explores the complexities of such issues in her colourful works. Through her evocative and inspiring works, El Saadawi managed to build a deep understanding and broad public support for more just and equal changes in Egyptian family law, forming a strong foundation for a better life for women in Egypt and around the world(El-Saadawi, 2019, p. 176).

## Nawal El Saadawi's Struggle for Gender Justice

Nawal El Saadawi's struggle to achieve gender justice in Egypt has been going on for years. She has been a sharp critic of gender inequality in family law, both in her writings and in her activities as a women's activist. El Saadawi has gone through personal experiences as a woman in Egypt limited by patriarchal rules in family law. She has fought this oppression by publicizing her experiences and thoughts, holding discussions and meetings with the

community, and cooperating with other organizations fighting for gender equality. In her struggle, Nawal El Saadawi has gained international recognition and is revered as a feminist hero and one of the most influential figures in the gender equality movement in Egypt(Newson, 2010, p. 7).

## Nawal El Saadawi's Influence in the Egyptian Feminist Movement

Nawal El Saadawi had a very large and significant influence in the feminist movement in Egypt(Shehata, 2023). She not only inspired and influenced many women in the country, but also on an extraordinary level. Through her extraordinarily powerful and vivid writings, she has provided a different perspective and deepened understanding of the condition of women in Egyptian society as well as the role of family law in maintaining gender inequality.

Not only that, Nawal El Saadawi has also paved the way and laid a strong foundation for other women to speak out and play an active role in the feminist movement. In an effort to fight for their rights, she has established various organizations and institutions focused on the protection and empowerment of women, as well as advocating for gender equality. In the course of time, Nawal El Saadawi's influence in the Egyptian feminist movement is still felt strongly. Her incredible works and inspiring ideas have transcended boundaries and remain an important resource for women's struggle to achieve absolute gender justice. In Nawal El Saadawi's courage and perseverance, many women saw and found inspiration and role models for those who also fought for equality and justice(Neal-Stanley, 2024).

With all her achievements and passionate approach, Nawal El Saadawi continues to be a source of inspiration for many women around the world who are fighting for their rights. Her presence has ignited a flame of change that will never be extinguished, and her legacy within the feminist movement remains relevant and powerful today. The spirit of Nawal El Saadawi lights the way for women who want to pursue their dreams and demand true gender justice.

## Gender Inequality in Egyptian Family Law

Family Law in Egypt is believed to be a major factor maintaining gender inequality in the country. The law explicitly contains provisions giving preference to men in various aspects of family life. This can be seen from the provisions that give full freedom to the husband to divorce his wife without a clear reason, while the wife does not have the same rights. Family Law also gives authority to the man as the head of the family who has full power and control in making family decisions(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 201).

#### The Role of Family Law in Maintaining Gender Inequality

The role of family law in Egypt has a major influence in maintaining gender inequality in the country. Family law grants special power and legitimacy to men as rulers of the family, while women are faced with very limited and marginalized positions. Through various provisions in family law, women in Egypt are not given equal rights in the event of divorce(Khoiruddin, 2001, p. 116), ownership of property, inheritance, and decision-making in the context of their family. As a result, there is widespread gender injustice and inequality, so women are very limited in controlling their lives and futures in an independent way. It is becoming increasingly clear that action needs to be taken to address this problem and provide equal opportunities for women in Egypt.

#### Impact of Gender Inequality on Women in Egypt

Gender inequality in Egyptian family law has a very significant impact on the lives of women in the country. One impact is the lack of protection and security for women in marriage and divorce(Riziq, 2002, p. 78). Women's lack of access to legal rights and family policies also results in low participation of women in decision-making that affects their lives. This gender inequality also has serious consequences for women's health, education, and economic opportunities. Women in Egypt still face difficulties in obtaining the right to a decent living and fair treatment in the established family justice system(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 199). Patriarchal attitudes and thoughts still dominate in the context of family law in this country, adding complexity and difficulty to women striving for justice and equality(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 189). Therefore, fundamental changes in family law and more inclusive policies are essential to create an environment where women can live freely, safely, and equally with men in all aspects of their lives.

## Nawal El Saadawi's Challenge to Gender Inequality in Egyptian Family Law

Nawal El Saadawi is an Egyptian feminist activist who is staunch in fighting gender inequality in family law in Egypt. She has great determination in fighting for the rights of women who are harmed by inequality in the family law system(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 196). Saadawi sees that family law in Egypt has many weaknesses and discrimination against women(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 205), Such as complicated procedures, polygamy problems,

wife disobedience, bread, and hadhanah. She acknowledges that legal changes won't happen quickly, but she remains committed to pushing for the changes needed to achieve equitable gender equality within families. In his vision, all individuals, both men and women, should have equal access to rights in the context of the family, including fair divorce, equal inheritance, and freedom of self-determination without outside interference in their personal lives(Podungge et al., 2022, p. 21).

#### Nawal El Saadawi's Analysis of Egyptian Family Law

Nawal El Saadawi carefully analyzed Egypt's family law system, identified a number of related issues and raised some unfair assumptions between husband and wife(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 192). In his analysis, she clearly highlights that the process of marriage, divorce, and the regulation of family rights tend to favor men over women. Saadawi, as a staunch feminist, firmly opposed polygamy which ultimately promoted gender inequality and harmed the position of women in society.

Through this in-depth analysis, Saadawi unequivocally reveals and proves how important it is to make significant changes and reforms in family law to provide proper protection and equality for women in Egypt, and fight for the rights of those who have long been neglected and marginalized. Thus, Saadawi's thought and analysis have given a call to all elements of society to unite and move forward towards an indispensable and awaited change in Egypt's family law system. In this context, it should be emphasized that the struggle to achieve gender equality and fair protection for women must be a top priority for the Egyptian nation. In the face of these challenges, it is important for all parties to acknowledge and address the reality that the current family law system has created structural injustices that cripple women's progress and well-being.

To move forward, concrete steps are needed that change the paradigm of male domination to equal rights and protection for all individuals, not only in the context of marriage and divorce(Khoiruddin, 2001, p. 246), but also in terms of financial arrangements, inheritance rights, and child custody. Such transformation cannot be ignored or delayed any longer, because equal rights and protection are human rights that must be obtained by every individual, regardless of their gender.

Therefore, if Egypt is truly to move forward as a just and inclusive country, comprehensive and progressive changes in family law must be a priority. This will involve

reforming a legal system that promotes equality, protects women from violence and discrimination, and guarantees them fair and equal rights(El-Saadawi, 2017c, p. 31).

We all have a moral and social responsibility to support this change. As Egyptians, we must unite and fight against the systematic injustices that have destroyed the potential and dignity of many women in this country. Together, we can bring about positive change and realize the dream of equality that many women have always wanted.

Let us join hands and fight against gender injustice, in order to create a better and just future for all individuals in Egypt. Saadawi has embarked on this change with his in-depth analysis, and now it is our duty to continue this struggle until achieving a true vision of equality and an inclusive family law system in our beloved country.

#### Nawal El Saadawi's Strategy in Influencing Legal Change

Nawal El Saadawi used a remarkable variety of strategies and was very effective in effecting the necessary changes in family law in Egypt(Shehata, 2023). One of them is by harnessing the power of her very critical and courageous writing, which is able to reveal unequivocally the gender injustice that exists in family law. She not only stopped there, but also loudly organized an extraordinarily broad feminist movement, and invited women from all walks of life to unite and fight for their rights tenaciously.

Not only that, Saadawi was also able to realize his ideas with extraordinary passion and perseverance, by often participating in various international conferences attended by world leaders. She also did not hesitate to participate in global meetings to campaign for broad changes in family law. Through her passionate activism, the idea of gender equality formulated by Saadawi gradually spread quickly to all corners of the world.

His powerful and profound message has succeeded in changing the paradigm long embedded in Egypt's family law system with tremendous impact. The change brings great hope to many women in the country, as they can finally achieve the gender equality that has been coveted. In other words, Nawal El Saadawi has created real change in society and charted a path to more just and equitable change(Riziq, 2002, pp. 166–167).

# The Role of Activists in Tackling Gender Inequality

Activists have a very important role to play in addressing widespread gender inequality in Egypt. In their quest for absolute gender equality, they work tirelessly to advocate for women's rights and fight for significant changes in existing family law policies. Activists also

take an active role in providing education and awareness to the public regarding the complexities and negative impacts associated with gender inequality that still prevail in family law in Egypt.

Through persistent campaigns and bold protests, activists are voicing important issues around women's rights and fighting for justice they deserve. They fight for the improvement of women's rights, including child guardianship rights, financial regulation rights, fair divorce rights, and protection from domestic violence(Burhanusyihab & Ikhsan, 2023, p. 648). Activists also fight for women's rights in marriage, employment, education, and equal access to public facilities such as healthcare and finance.

Not only working at the community level, activists also try to collaborate with the government and related institutions to formulate policies that support gender equality in family law. They seek to effect positive change by engaging policymakers in dialogue and advocacy. Activists also serve as liaisons between communities and law enforcement agencies, ensuring that gender inequality issues receive the attention they deserve and fair handling(Sostre et al., 2024, p. 617).

In carrying out their role, activists not only face a number of challenges. They often experience pressure, intimidation, and even threats to their personal security. However, their passion to fight gender inequality and achieve positive change has never dimmed. They continue to fight for women's rights tenaciously, hoping that one day Egyptian society will become a place where every woman can live freely, equally, and without fear of being a victim of gender discrimination or violence(Qassim Amin, 2010, pp. 91–92).

The commitment and dedication of activists has had a significant impact in changing the family law landscape in Egypt. While much work still needs to be done to achieve perfect gender equality, their role as drivers of change and protectors of women's rights cannot be ignored. They are modern heroes who brought about positive changes in society, and we expect continued support for their efforts to address gender inequality in Egypt.

## The Role of Activists in Raising Awareness of Gender Inequality

The role of activists in raising awareness of gender inequality is important and diverse(Fahs, 2024, p. 481). In addition to counseling and education activities, they are also involved in various other efforts to broaden understanding of gender issues in family law.

Activists don't just rely on offline activities, but also use social media and other online platforms to spread information about gender inequality.

In addition, activists also play a role in organizing online campaigns to raise public awareness and stimulate discussion on gender issues. They harness the power of social media, through the use of hashtags and social network-based campaigns, to gain more support and participation from the public in addressing this issue. They are also active in publishing activities, such as producing articles, essays, and other publications aimed at discussing and educating about gender inequality. Such publications can cover a wide range of topics, from equality in employment, traditional roles inherent in gender, to the impact of gender inequality in everyday life(Neal-Stanley, 2024).

Not only that, activists also try to create a space for dialogue involving the community, academics, and various other stakeholders. The discussions and seminars they held aimed to reach mutual understanding, learn from each other, and build wider awareness related to gender inequality. It provides an opportunity for individuals with diverse backgrounds to share their experiences, views, and knowledge, thus creating a more holistic understanding of gender issues(Goussault-Capmas et al., 2024).

With all these efforts, activists are instrumental in building a more inclusive, equitable, and aware of gender equality issues. They continue to move forward with the hope that through education, awareness, and concrete action, gender inequality can be fought and a more equal world can be built.

#### Activist Action in Changing Family Law Policy

Activist action in changing family law policy includes a variety of strategies and tactics that are critical in bringing about broad social transformation. In their efforts to achieve significant change, dedicated activists advocate not only to policymakers, but also to the entire community to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in the family context.

As part of their advocacy strategy, activists lobbied vigorously with policymakers to urge changes in family law that could benefit women. They work closely with other civil society organizations and groups to promote these efforts. Their critical role and the

emphasis they put on the importance of gender equality in the family context contributed to the emergence of new, more inclusive and progressive laws in Egypt.

In addition to lobbying, activists also involve themselves in the acceptance of new laws that are more inclusive and progressive through community empowerment. They inform the public about women's rights in the family context and encourage active community participation in policy change processes. In this regard, activists seek to build better awareness and understanding of the need for gender equality in family law(Goussault-Capmas et al., 2024).

However, the role of activists does not stop at advocacy efforts and acceptance of new, more inclusive and progressive laws. They also engage in protests, demonstrations, and street campaigns to voice their demands for gender equality in family law. Through these actions, activists seek to attract public attention and demonstrate the power of their voices. They are striving to change the paradigm and promote gender equality broadly by promoting justice and equality for women in Egypt.

All these efforts are carried out with the main aim of changing people's views and affecting policy changes that are more just and equal for women in Egypt. Activists not only seek to create change in family law, but also work towards the creation of a more inclusive and equal society for all individuals.

Through their commitment and dedication, activists continue to fight for justice and equality in family law. With diverse strategies and tactics, they worked tirelessly to achieve positive change as well as fairer rights for women in Egypt(El-Saadawi, 2017c, p. 42).

#### Nawal El Saadawi's Impact on Egypt's Family Law Changes

Nawal El Saadawi has had a very significant impact on the changes in family law that have occurred in the vast country of Egypt. Through her extraordinary thoughts and works, she has clearly and successfully opened a very wide and in-depth discussion space regarding the deep-rooted gender inequality in the family law system. She has not only voiced and pointed out this injustice, but has also inspired thousands of activists and other thinkers from all walks of life to be bold and critical to press for much more just and inclusive legal change.

The impact of Nawal El Saadawi's efforts can be felt and seen clearly through the diverse aspects of Egyptian society(Wing, 2023, p. 150). The interconnectedness between policy changes and drastic improvements in the protection of women's rights in the country

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shows the strong influence of her struggle and the object of her work. Saadawi has broken the old paradigm of imprisoning women in narrow and confined family spheres, and paved the way for equal rights and wider opportunities for them.

A greater awareness and understanding of the importance of gender justice in family law is now inevitable in Egypt. Although there are still long struggles and challenges to be faced, especially in overcoming the resistance and prejudice of those who still maintain patriarchal tyranny(El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 216), but Nawal El Saadawi has laid a solid foundation and inspired future generations to continue striving to change the umbrella of family law to be more inclusive, fair, and respectful of the rights of every individual.

#### Nawal El Saadawi's Influence in Family Law Changes

Nawal El Saadawi's influence in changing family law in Egypt cannot be underestimated. Through his incisive writings and inspiring speeches, she has driven a very significant change that cannot be ignored in family law reform. She has boldly and forcefully criticized and highlighted deeply discriminatory and unequal laws against women, which include unfair and unfair and unequal laws on marriage, divorce, and child custody(Jambunanda et al., 2023). His sharp, clear, and impassioned critique has sparked a deep awareness among citizens and governments, and has been a very important first step towards bringing about change that is far more just, equitable, inclusive, and socially just for all. In every word she writes, in every word she speaks, Nawal El Saadawi has marked his courage and decisiveness in fighting for equality and justice in family law in Egypt, and his monumental legacy of struggle will live on to inspire and inspire ambitious future generations to bring about more just, equal and progressive change in our struggling world(Shehata, 2023).

Nawal El Saadawi's positive influence in family law reform is undeniable. His persistent action against injustice has stimulated thought and awakened the spirit of change in Egyptian society. In his remarkable works, El Saadawi has transcended existing boundaries and questioned unjust beliefs. Her sharp and forceful criticism of gender inequality in marriage, divorce, and child custody has forced governments and societies to reconsider their patriarchal views. She has been a voice for millions of women who are unfairly treated and has raised concerns about the need for change. In his passionate and impassioned words, El Saadawi has marked the way for socially just and inclusive change in Egypt(Shehata, 2023).

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His great legacy will continue to influence and inspire future generations to fight for equality and justice in family law. Nawal El Saadawi's brilliance and perseverance in fighting injustice will continue to be a source of inspiration for those with high ambitions to create a more just, equal and progressive world.

## Improving the Protection of Women's Rights through Legal Changes

Through legal changes pushed by women's activist Nawal El Saadawi, there has been a significant improvement in the protection of women's rights in Egypt. One tangible result of these changes has been a change in marriage law, which now puts women in a better position and protects them from all forms of injustice and discrimination (El-Saadawi, 2017a).

In addition, there has been a significant improvement in child custody protection. In the past, patriarchal perspectives controlled all aspects of determining child custody. But thanks to the struggle of Nawal El Saadawi, this view has shifted to become more inclusive, paying attention to the main interests of the child. This brings about positive changes in the legal system, provides better protection for children and increases their chances to grow and develop properly.

Thus, this law change is not only a step towards gender equality, but also an important step in ensuring that women have the same rights as men and get the protection they deserve in their countries(Firman Syah, Fadlil Yani Ainusyamsi, 2021, p. 68). Nawal El Saadawi deserves credit for her outstanding role in driving such change.

However, despite significant improvements, much work remains to be done to achieve full gender equality in Egypt. All parties, both individuals and governments, must work together to continue this struggle and ensure that there is no more injustice and discrimination against women. Only with hard work and strong commitment can we achieve a just and equal society for all.

#### Future Challenges in Achieving Gender Equality in Egypt

The future of achieving gender equality in Egypt still faces several complex challenges that require serious attention. First, obstacles in the implementation of family law changes are one of the things that need to be overcome effectively and sustainably. Although some legal amendments have been made to reduce gender inequality, further efforts are needed to ensure that these laws are actually implemented and produce real changes in everyday life.

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This requires close cooperation between governments, legal institutions, and civil society organizations (Shehata, 2023).

In addition, the role of society is also an important factor in promoting gender equality in Egypt. Despite efforts by activists and legal changes, gender equality will not be achieved without the support and active participation of the wider community. Public education and awareness about the importance of gender equality must continue to be improved through effective campaigns and participation in gender strengthening programs at all levels(El-Saadawi, 2017c).

This challenge cannot be solved by one party or one action alone. This challenge requires cooperation between governments, activists, civil society organizations, and individuals concerned about gender equality. It is hoped that through this collaborative effort, better gender equality can be achieved in the future.

Thus, the future of gender equality in Egypt still remains a significant challenge. However, with ever-increasing awareness and strong cooperation between all parties involved, the hope of achieving better gender equality is not impossible. Let us unite and fight together to overcome this challenge, so that Egypt can become a country that reflects true gender equality and justice.

#### Obstacles in the Implementation of Family Law Changes

The implementation of family law changes in Egypt faces some very complex obstacles and covers various aspects. First of all, not only is there resistance and disapproval from conservatives who defend patriarchal traditions and values, but there is also the challenge of changing people's perceptions and mindsets at large. Efforts to build awareness about the importance of gender equality and protection of women's rights should be carried out through intensive education and social campaigns (Shehata, 2023).

In addition, lack of resources and limited infrastructure are also major obstacles to effective implementation. For example, despite policies that promote accessibility to affordable legal services and legal protection for women, there are still significant gaps. Many women still do not have easy and affordable access to the legal services they need to protect themselves from domestic violence, unfair divorce, or family financial abuses(Newson, 2010). In this regard, it is important to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of legal services aimed at women. Adequate resources must be allocated to ensure that women

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have sufficient information, comprehensive legal assistance, and the support they need to undergo the legal process fairly and equally. A tangible proof of this commitment is to strengthen support systems, such as legal aid centers, advocacy groups, and social networks that will support women in fighting legal injustice.

Not only that, the justice system must also be strengthened and improved. Extra efforts must be made to ensure that the judiciary has true independence, integrity, and is free from corrupt practices(Permana, 2020). Firm and transparent reforms must be undertaken to correct the lingering injustices in the justice system. It is imperative that any cases involving women and their families be handled with sensitivity and fairness, without taking sides with anyone.

Overall, the implementation of family law changes in Egypt is a complex process and requires collaboration from various parties. Only by overcoming conservative resistance, increasing resources and infrastructure, and strengthening a fair and transparent justice system will the desired family law changes be realized. This will have a real positive impact on women in Egypt, providing better protection, equality, and fulfillment of their rights in the context of the family.

#### The Role of Society in Promoting Gender Equality

Society has a very significant important role in promoting gender equality which is growing rapidly in Egypt today. With the support and active participation of all citizens, unprecedented progress in changing perceptions and norms that still maintain gender inequality can be realized. The existence of a broader understanding and deeper education on issues related to gender is an important bridge to build inclusive thinking in society. It is important for Egyptians to gain increased education and greater awareness of gender issues. By placing the issue of gender equality as a priority, a better understanding of the importance of gender equality can develop among the public. In this regard, the role of non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and the media is crucial in playing an important role in building a stronger and more sustainable gender equality movement in Egypt(Shehata, 2023).

Not only that, close collaboration and cooperation between all community members should not be ignored. Society needs to constantly campaign and support legal and policy changes aimed at achieving more just and harmonious gender equality in Egypt(El-Saadawi,

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2019). By involving all aspects of people's lives, including culture, religion, and political institutions, the hope of achieving better gender equality will be realized.

Therefore, through joint efforts and a collaborative spirit, Egyptian society can play a very significant role in driving sustainable positive change for gender equality. In a diverse and multicultural society like Egypt, the importance of diversity as a source of strength should also be appreciated and recognized. In this way, we can witness an exciting transformation towards an equal and inclusive society in our beloved Egypt.

#### Case in Egypt

In Egypt, there are several cases that reflect gender inequality in family law. One case that is quite controversial is the divorce case. Many women have difficulty obtaining their rights in divorce, such as child custody and livelihood (El-Saadawi, 2017b, p. 208). In addition, cases of polygamy are also a problem that often arises. Family law in Egypt allows men to have more than one wife, which can increase injustice against women. The issue of ownership of inheritance property is also an important issue in this study.

Women often do not inherit fairly compared to men. All these cases show that gender inequality is still a problem in Egyptian family law and poses a challenge for women in seeking justice(Shehata, 2023).

Gender inequality in family law in Egypt has become an issue that continues to receive attention from various parties. Many women struggle to get justice in divorce, but still face many obstacles and obstacles. They have to fight hard to obtain child custody and the income they should have earned easily. In addition, the issue of polygamy also continues to be a hot debate in Egyptian society. Many highlighted that legal policies that allow men to have more than one wife can result in injustice against women(Wahib, 2014).

In addition to these cases, ownership of inheritance is also a serious concern in this study. Women are often given fewer rations than men in the inheritance division. This is unfair and should get more attention from the Egyptian government and society. Gender inequality in terms of ownership of inheritance must be addressed urgently to create true justice within the Egyptian family.

All these cases only underscore that gender inequality still affects women in seeking justice within Egypt's family law system. These challenges faced by women must not be ignored and there must be concrete action to create positive change. Family law should be

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able to provide protection and equal rights for all individuals, regardless of their sex. Only by addressing gender inequality can we achieve true justice in advanced Egyptian society.

#### CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the study is that Nawal El Saadawi has a very deep and comprehensive understanding of power dynamics in the Egyptian family law system. Through his in-depth analysis, Nawal El Saadawi has identified and criticized several critical aspects of Egyptian family law, including but not limited to, polygamy, wifely fidelity, bread, and hadhanah. This research unequivocally shows that the role of family law in maintaining and reinforcing gender inequality in Egypt cannot be ignored. The impact on women in the country is enormous, with many women facing injustice and often having their rights violated. Nawal El Saadawi's efforts to confront gender inequality in Egyptian family law emphasize the importance of strategies to influence legal change and public awareness of the issue.

The role of activists like Nawal El Saadawi is critical in addressing gender inequality and pushing for more just and inclusive legal policy change. Through her persistent struggle, Nawal El Saadawi has succeeded in effecting significant changes in family law in Egypt, improving the protection of women's rights, and fighting for gender equality. However, the study also notes that the implementation of changes in legislation still faces several obstacles, and to realize gender equality in Egypt, active participation and a greater role of the whole society is needed.

In addition, comparisons with cases in Indonesia also provide a broader and comprehensive understanding of the issue in different contexts. The theme of this study reflects novelty and significance in exploring Nawal El Saadawi's work and her challenges to lingering gender inequality in Egyptian family law. Overall, the study underscores the urgency of the need for a greater role for society, as well as the continued attention of activists and the international community in pushing for more progressive legal change and broader gender equality in Egypt. Nawal El Saadawi's work has been a milestone in the struggle to achieve more just and inclusive change in Egypt's family law system.

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-Write findings based on the themes emerged in the data analysis -Research results have too many sub-chapters. Create specific and effective sub-chapters that focus on answering research questions -Articles are too long, dont exceed 7000 words. summarize again the discussion of the research results

Sharpen your analysis with reputable international journals

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