The Concept of Digital Citizenship in the Schools of Saudi Arabia
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Building Leadership for Change Through School Immersion

VISION 2030
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Author Information

- He participated in the KSU College of Education Khbrat Program in the US.
- Ahmed S. Alfawaz Alzahrani.
- His research interest is in using digital learning in education.
- Bachelor's Degree in English language, Umm Al-Qura University, KSA.
- Works for Kira'a Real Estate Company as the IT manager.
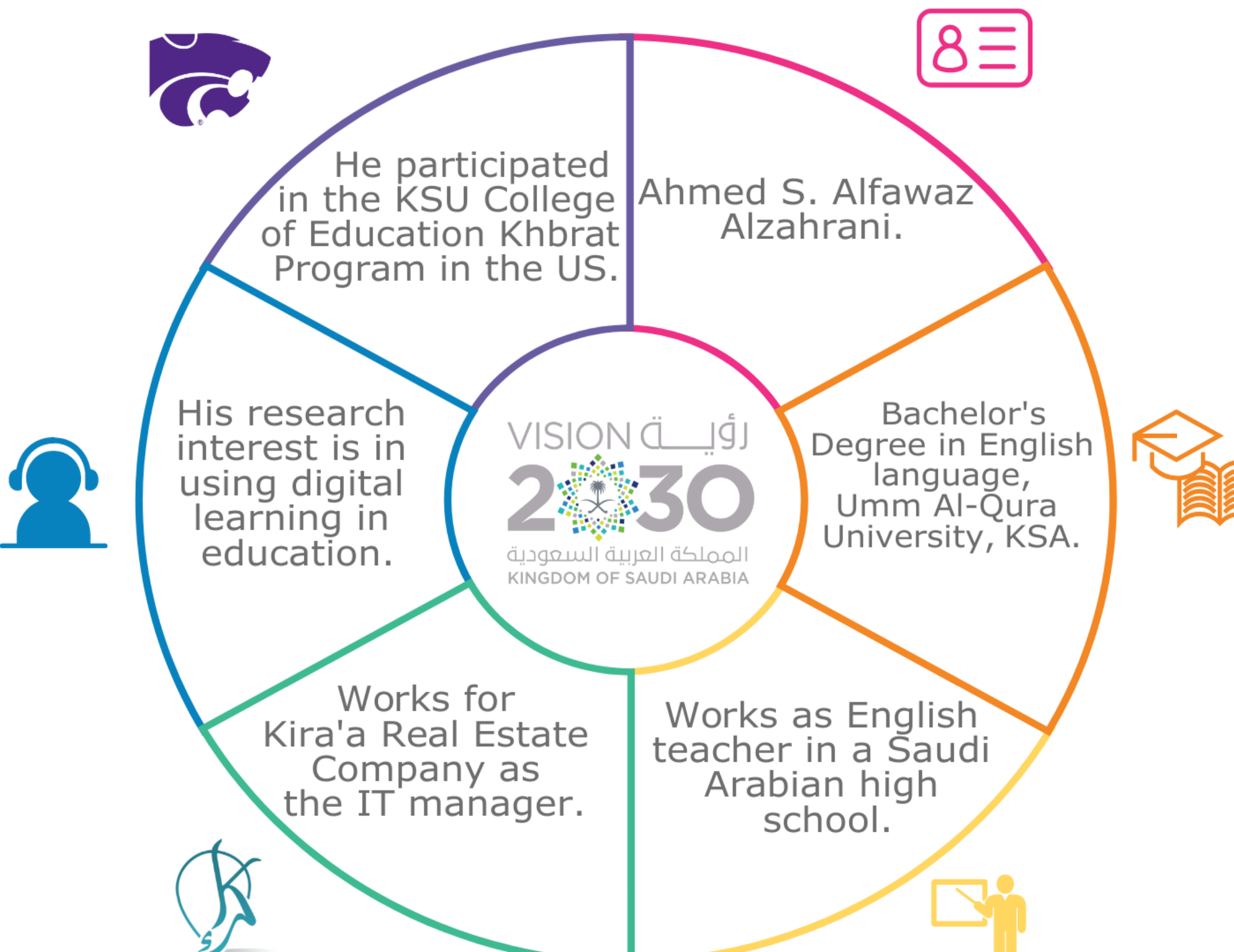- Works as English teacher in a Saudi Arabian high school.

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Abstract

- This research seeks to know the spread of the concept of digital citizenship among school students in Saudi Arabia.
- It was found that 81.3% of the participants in a survey did not know the concept of digital citizenship (Al-Fawaz, 2018).
- To measure the impact of activities and programs, a descriptive study will be conducted on secondary students and the data will be collected and analyzed statistically.
- The researcher has prepared many programs and activities to spread the concept of digital citizenship between students and the school community.
- Literary reviews have shown the importance of the concept of digital citizenship among members of society.

Review of the Literature

Definitions

Digital citizenship is the responsible, ethical, and secure use of ICTs as individuals in the national community and as citizens of the global community (Mossberger, et al., 2008, p.1).

The concept of digital citizenship is relatively new and has been used to refer to the topics of participation in digital society, safety, and privacy. (Walsh, Walsh, 2014, p. 189)

Digital citizenship aims at protecting students and their safety, preserving their identity, values, customs, and traditions (Bel Abbes, 2015, p. 235).

Statement of need

Internet in Saudi Arabia

- **1997** The internet entered Saudi Arabia officially under a ministerial decision.
- **2005** The government's action to change its transactions to e-government.
- **2017** The number of internet users in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia grew to more than 26 million users.
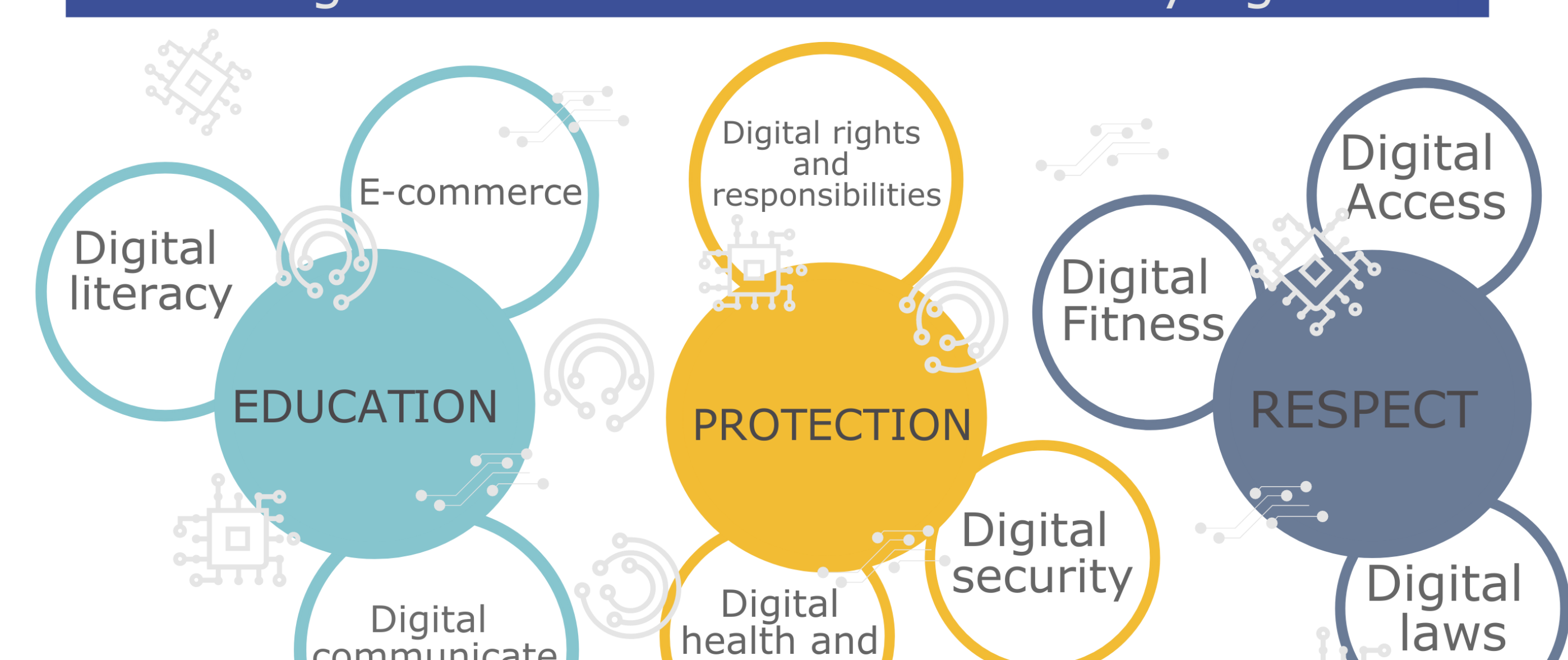
Internet for everybody and everywhere..!!

The technology and information revolution carries with it many advantages and disadvantages for the individual and society.

DISADVANTAGES
- Digital addiction
- Defamation
- Politics
- Religion
- Piracy
- Sports

All these disadvantages can lead to:

- Dissemination of false news and rumors and abuse of others
- Pornography
- Cyberbullying
- Copyright infringement of literary
- Erasure or deliberate obliteration of data
- Information and economic fraud and credit card fraud

To clarify and teach the axes of digital citizenship. Each category includes three topics that must be taught to the student from an early age:

- **EDUCATION**: Digital literacy, E-commerce, Digital communicate
- **PROTECTION**: Digital rights and responsibilities, Digital health and safety, Digital security
- **RESPECT**: Digital Access, Digital Fitness, Digital laws

Implementation Plan

- **Sep. 2019** Meetings and Training courses for teachers and supervisors.
- **Oct. 2019** Hold meeting with the Curriculum Development Officer at the Ministry of Education.
- **Nov. 2019** Publishing comic books for kids.
- **Dec. 2019** Create a website by Arabic language about Digital Citizenship.
- **Jan 2020** Hold a celebration week of digital citizenship.

This study focuses on spreading the culture of digital citizenship among school students in Saudi Arabia. To apply this concept, teachers, supervisors, and parents must be well prepared.

Evaluation Plan

- **Target Group**: 35% of the 23,454 students will be examined in high schools in Makkah.
- **Questionnaire**: This questionnaire includes expressions representing the elements of digital citizenship.
- **Analyzing**: The survey results for the studied community, the information will be entered into the SPSS.
- **Decision**: The results will be drawn and discussed for the formulation of recommendations.

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