



## ABSTRACT:

Over the past decades, literary clubs have evolved from informal entities into institutional centers of creativity, contributing significantly to the expansion and development of Saudi literature. This study seeks to investigate the role, development, and impact of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia and their role and contribution to preserving literary traditions while at the same time adapting and harmonizing with contemporary trends. By analyzing their contributions to literary production, cultural exchange, and intellectual discourse, this research highlights the importance of these clubs as literary-cultural institutions. Despite their achievements, Saudi literary clubs have faced challenges, including disparities in effectiveness and participation. However, their resilience and continued importance confirm their contribution to shaping the literary and cultural identity of the Kingdom. As a literary study, the paper adopts the critical and descriptive-analytical approach and contains an introduction. Then it turns to provide an overview of the emergence of Saudi literary clubs, followed by a brief discussion, recommendations and a conclusion.

**Keywords:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, literary clubs, literary influence, literature and literacy, roles of literary clubs, Saudi literature

مَلِكُ حِصْرِ الْبَحْثِ

على مدى عقود مضت، تطورت الأندية الأدبية من كيانات غير رسمية إلى مراكز مؤسسية للإبداع، مما ساهم بشكل كبير في توسيع وتطوير الأدب السعودي. تسعى هذه الدراسة إلى استقصاء دور وتطور وتأثير الأندية الأدبية في المملكة العربية السعودية، واستقصاء دورها وإسهامها في الحفاظ على التقاليد الأدبية وفي نفس الوقت التكيف والمواءمة مع الاتجاهات المعاصرة. من خلال تحليل مساهماتها في الإنتاج الأدبي والتبادل الثقافي والخطاب الفكري، يسلط هذا البحث الضوء على أهمية هذه الأندية كمؤسسات ثقافية أدبية. على الرغم من إنجازاتها، واجهت الأندية الأدبية السعودية تحديات، بما في ذلك التفاوت في الفعالية والمشاركة. ومع ذلك، فإن مرونتها وأهميتها المستمرة تؤكد على إسهامها في تشكيل الهوية الأدبية والثقافية للمملكة. كدراسة أدبية تنهج الدراسة الأسلوب التحليلي النقدي والوصفي، وتحتوي على مقدمة ثم تتطرق إلى إعطاء لمحة عن نشأة الأندية الأدبية السعودية، وبعد ذلك نقاش موجز متبوع بتوصيات وخاتمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الأدب والتعليم، المملكة العربية السعودية، الأندية الأدبية، التأثير الأدبي، أدوار الأندية الأدبية، الأدب السعودي

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia has long been a land steeped in cultural and literary richness, deeply rooted in its Arab and Islamic heritage. The emergence of literary clubs in the Kingdom marked a significant turning point in its intellectual and artistic landscape. Established in the 1970s, these clubs provided a structured platform for poets, writers, and intellectuals to engage in literary discourse, foster talent, and promote cultural dialogue. From the intricate oral poetry of pre-Islamic Arabia to the modern era of prose and literary criticism, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has fostered a profound appreciation for literature as an essential aspect of its cultural identity. Literary clubs are the beating heart of cultural movements in any society. They are the national memory of culture and cannot be dissolved or abolished simply, and new entities are established without a soul, history, roots, or identity to which intellectuals belong (Al-Rowaili, 2022). In addition, literary clubs in Saudi Arabia began more than three decades ago as an institutional formula for activating and sponsoring literature, similar to writers' unions in other Arab countries.

Saudi literary clubs branched out into several branches, reaching 16 clubs. However, not all of them were equally effective, as some clubs were highly distinguished in their activities and development. At the same time, others remained faltering despite the importance of the funding they received (As-Sudyr, 2019). Within this context, literary clubs have emerged as pivotal institutions, playing a significant role in shaping the intellectual and cultural landscape of Saudi society. These clubs have transcended their original purpose of promoting poetry and prose to become exciting centers for intellectual dialogue, community engagement, and cultural preservation. Literary clubs have emerged to be forums in which thought and forums are dialogue in which minds are discussed with an approach that guarantees intellectual safety and provides thinkers with continuous communication with the audience of culture and thought in the shadow of the teachings of the superb law.

The wheel of history does not stop, and the movement diversifies and develops whenever the aspects of material life prevail, and the tired human souls ascend toward spaces that saturate them with art, creativity, imagination, and magic. From here, history repeats itself, and civilization reveals lines from the ancient past, even if in another form, since King Abdulaziz University organized the first Saudi Writers Conference in 1974, and the literary figures present at the time called for the necessity of finding special places that bring together writers. The following year, a number of writers and intellectuals from different regions of the Kingdom went to the General President of Saudi Youth Welfare at the time, the late Prince Faisal ibn Fahd, in Riyadh. They discussed the importance of activating the role of culture and revitalizing the movement of literature and giving in an institutional manner. The literary figure Aziz Thiya proposed the idea of establishing literary clubs, which was immediately approved, and their number became 16 clubs in a quick time in the life of the nation. See more at (Al-Qahtani, 2024; Al-Ittihad, 2018; Al-Qahtani, 2001).

The cultural landscape of Saudi Arabia has undergone significant transformation over the past century, and at the heart of this evolution lies the emergence and growth of literary clubs. These clubs have played an essential role in fostering literary discourse, nurturing talent, and promoting Saudi literature both locally and internationally. This essay explores the history of Saudi literary clubs, highlighting their growth, development, and contribution to the broader spectrum of Saudi literature.

The establishment of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia marked a turning point in the nation's literary history. These institutions offered a structured platform for writers, poets, and thinkers to share their works, exchange ideas, and engage in critical discussions about societal and cultural issues. Literary clubs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are one of the most important cultural centers where ideas converge and cultural products appear. They are important centers for gathering intellectuals and writers, and they issue cultural magazines (Al-Yassin, 2000). Over time, literary clubs have

evolved to reflect the changing dynamics of Saudi society, adapting to modern trends while maintaining their traditional essence. Their growth has been fueled by a combination of grassroots efforts and government support, enabling them to flourish as beacons of literary and cultural activity across the Kingdom.

The founding of these literary clubs reflected the aspirations of Saudi intellectuals and writers who sought dedicated spaces to explore and discuss a wide range of topics related to literature, art, culture, and philosophy. Before the formation of these clubs, such discussions were often limited to informal gatherings or smaller, ad hoc forums. The clubs provided a formalized setting that allowed for greater inclusivity, diversity, and consistency in literary and cultural engagement. Writers and poets found these spaces invaluable for sharing their work, exchanging ideas, and receiving constructive feedback from their peers. Moreover, the clubs acted as conduits for bridging traditional literary forms with modern trends, encouraging innovation while respecting the Kingdom's deeply rooted cultural values. This interplay of the traditional and the contemporary enriched the Saudi literary scene, making these clubs a cornerstone of the nation's intellectual and artistic life.

## 2. Literature Review

An interesting gap in the literature has been discovered by this research after a thorough reading, search, and investigation of earlier works on Saudi literary clubs and their contributions to Saudi literature. The function and influence of literary clubs on the literary landscape have not been particularly studied, despite the growing interest in cultural and literary trends in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Literary clubs are frequently essential venues for innovation, discussion, and the advancement of regional writers; thus, their absence is startling. In addition to highlighting this topic's distinctiveness, the paucity of prior studies on the subject also begs crucial concerns about why these clubs have not received more attention in the academic community.

The lack of previous research emphasizes how important and necessary this study is. It suggests a sincere need to look into the workings of these literary clubs, their historical relevance, and the ways in which they support Saudi Arabia's literary talent and cultural expression. The research has the ability to close a large vacuum in the literature by tackling this hitherto untouched field of study, increasing its effect and usefulness for academics, professionals, and fans of Saudi literature. Additionally, the topic's uniqueness establishes this study as a trailblazing endeavor, opening the door for further research into the kingdom's literary and cultural trends. A deeper understanding and appreciation of the part literary clubs play in forming the narrative of Saudi literature in modern culture can be fostered by this seminal work, which can stimulate additional research.

## 3. Objectives of the Study

This article explores the history of Saudi literary clubs, charting their journey from modest beginnings to their current status as influential cultural institutions. It delves into their development, highlighting the factors that contributed to their expansion and adaptation. Furthermore, the essay sheds light on their invaluable contributions to Saudi literature, emphasizing their role in development local talent, fostering cultural exchange, and preserving the nation's literary heritage. By examining the past, present, and future of Saudi literary clubs, this essay seeks to underscore their enduring significance in the Kingdom's literary, cultural, and intellectual life.

## 4. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative analytical approach to examine the history, development, and impact of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia. Through a combination of historical analysis, document review, and thematic analysis, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how these institutions have shaped the Kingdom's literary and cultural landscape. A qualitative research design is adopted to explore the evolution of Saudi literary clubs, their functions, and their

contributions to literary and intellectual discourse. This method allows for an in-depth examination of historical records, scholarly articles, government reports, and literary publications that document the growth and activities of these clubs.

In addition, the study conducts a thematic analysis of the literary outputs associated with these clubs, highlighting frequent motifs, genres, and stylistic characteristics. Representative works produced by club constituents—such as poetry, prose, and literary criticism—are analyzed to identify patterns of creation and continuity in Saudi literary expression. This thematic analysis facilitates an exploration of how literary clubs have both preserved traditional forms and encouraged modern literary movements.

The study explores how these clubs have facilitated literary criticism, creative writing, and intellectual exchange over time. Statements from prominent Saudi intellectuals and club members are analyzed to understand their perspectives on the clubs' successes, challenges, and prospects. By synthesizing insights from historical sources, literature, and expert commentary, this study presents a well-rounded narrative on the significance of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia. The findings contribute to the understanding of how these institutions have shaped literary production, cultural engagement, and intellectual discourse in the Kingdom.

## 5. Results of the Study

### 5.1. Origins of Saudi Literary Clubs

Before the establishment of these official literary clubs, informal literary councils served as vital gathering points for poets, writers, and thinkers. These councils were often held in private homes, mosques, or other accessible venues, where like-minded individuals could come together to share their work and engage in meaningful discussions. These gatherings were characterized by their intimate and personal nature, which fostered a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect among participants. While informal in structure, these councils played a crucial role in keeping the literary spirit alive during a time when formalized institutions were not yet in place. They also provided a platform for emerging voices to gain recognition and for established figures to mentor the next generation of literary talents.

The legacy of these councils is deeply intertwined with the later success of the official literary clubs, as they laid the groundwork for the formalization of Saudi Arabia's cultural and literary activities. In addition, the literary clubs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have not only achieved the great visible and invisible goals but also performed the mission entrusted to them in the best possible way. In addition to this, there is freedom of action. The literary clubs can organize their literary activities, whether pulpit-based, printed, or similar seminars. They can practice these activities with the utmost intellectual and literary giving. They cooperate with each other, according to the directives that guarantee them this freedom and this movement (Fathel, 1998, p. 122).

Among the most notable of these informal councils was the Sheikh Muhammad Surur Al-Sabban Council in Makkah. This council became a prominent hub for literary and intellectual exchange, attracting some of the most distinguished poets, writers, and thinkers of its time. Held in the home of Sheikh Muhammad Surur Al-Sabban, a respected figure in Saudi society, the council provided a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment for discussing literature, poetry, and broader cultural issues. "Because of the expansion, elaboration, and progress of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in all phases and sides of life, several features motivated the resurgence of poetry, such as printing presses, media, radio, libraries, literary clubs, and some other common inspirations on literature progress" (Dahami, 2022a). Participants often engaged in passionate debates, recited poetry, and shared their literary works, making the council a vibrant center of cultural activity. Its influence extended beyond the city of Makkah, inspiring similar gatherings in other regions and setting a precedent for the establishment of more formal literary institutions in the future. The legacy of the

Al-Sabban Council continues to be celebrated as a vital chapter in the history of Saudi Arabia's literary and cultural development, highlighting the enduring impact of informal literary gatherings in shaping the nation's intellectual landscape. See more at (Al-Salmi, f00; Fairozi, 1999).

In addition, Abdullah Al-Haidari believes that literary clubs are incubators for culture and literature that we should be proud of. Their impact is great and difficult to summarize, as the clubs have contributed to activating the publishing movement and have enriched the Saudi library with many publications, most of which are good. Literary clubs have created a joyful movement in the various regions of the Kingdom. Their contributions have increased, diversified, and renewed in the last ten years, with a number of them signing partnership agreements. In addition to the openness to different segments of society, some of them announced incentive awards for creators and authors and opened cultural committees in many governorates that were forgotten in the past (Al-Abbad et al., 2015).

Initially concentrated in major cities, such as Riyadh and Jeddah, these clubs emerged as forums for literary readings, intellectual discussions, and creative collaboration. Their activities were primarily centered on Arabic poetry, prose, and literary criticism, reflecting the Kingdom's cultural traditions. By the 1980s and 1990s, the clubs had expanded to include smaller cities and governorates, aligning with the government's vision to decentralize cultural activities and make them accessible to broader demographics. This expansion not only diversified the voices represented in Saudi literature but also strengthened regional contributions to the national literary canon.

One of the most critical contributions of Saudi literary clubs has been their role as incubators of literary talent. Scholars emphasize the mentorship programs, competitions, and workshops offered by these clubs as essential mechanisms for nurturing emerging writers. By providing access to experienced poets, novelists, and critics, these institutions have helped countless individuals refine their craft and gain confidence in their work. Many renowned Saudi authors, including prominent figures like Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, Mohammad Hasan Awwad, and many others have acknowledged the role of literary clubs in their formative years. These clubs also facilitated the publication of works by budding authors, ensuring that their voices reached wider audiences.

Saudi literary clubs have contributed a central role in fostering cultural dialogue and intellectual exchange. Research indicates that these clubs have historically acted as mediators between traditional cultural values and modern literary trends. Their initiatives, such as hosting conferences, poetry evenings, and literary exhibitions, have provided platforms for discussing pressing societal issues and exploring new literary forms. In addition, the publication of literary magazines and cultural bulletins by these clubs has been instrumental in documenting and disseminating Saudi Arabia's literary production. These publications not only serve as archives of the Kingdom's intellectual evolution but also as tools for engaging international audiences.

The development of Saudi literary clubs can be distinctly divided into several key stages, each representing a milestone in their evolution and growth. These stages span from their inception in the 1970s to the contemporary era, reflecting a trajectory of expansion and diversification. In their early phase, the clubs served as formalized successors to informal literary councils, providing structured platforms for poets, writers, and thinkers to engage in discussions and share their works. Over time, they expanded their reach, both geographically and thematically, incorporating diverse forms of artistic expression and embracing innovative ways to engage with the community. The contemporary stage, marked by digital transformation and increased inclusivity, has further enhanced the relevance of these clubs in modern Saudi society. Through initiatives such as virtual literary events, collaborations with global cultural entities, and a focus on youth and women's participation, the clubs have positioned themselves as dynamic institutions capable of adapting to the changing needs of their audiences. This phased development not only underscores their importance in promoting literary and

cultural activities but also highlights their role in contributing to Saudi Arabia's vision for a knowledge-based and culturally enriched society.

This stage of development marked the official beginning of the institutional literary movement in Saudi Arabia. The role of literary clubs is represented in developing the literary movement in the Kingdom by pointing out the importance of the cultural institution and gathering the spectrums for programmed and purposeful cultural interaction. It is also represented in the role played by the clubs through contributing to activating the literary movement. In addition to the participation of literary clubs in international book fairs inside and outside the Kingdom (SPA, 2012). Furthermore, Saudi literary clubs, as Al-Suwaigh (2020), points out, aim to support literary paths in Saudi Arabia through the presence of proposed publications in libraries inside and outside the Kingdom and the possibility of their spread also within book fairs that are usually held in the cities of the Gulf and Arab countries.

The clubs organized a variety of events, such as poetry evenings, cultural lectures, and literary forums, which became cornerstones of their activities. These events not only provided a platform for established voices but also offered emerging talents an opportunity to gain recognition and hone their skills. Poetry evenings, in particular, became popular, drawing large audiences eager to experience the art of spoken word and engage with the poetic traditions of the region. Cultural lectures, on the other hand, allowed for the exploration of diverse topics, ranging from philosophy and history to contemporary social issues. By organizing such events, the literary clubs established themselves as vital cultural institutions, fostering a deeper appreciation for literature and intellectual discourse while contributing to the broader cultural renaissance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## 5.2. Early Beginnings

The establishment of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia dates back to the 1970s, a pivotal decade marked by significant literary activities, social, and political transformations. During this period, the Kingdom was experiencing rapid modernization driven by economic growth, urbanization, and the expansion of educational institutions. As part of these broader changes, there was a growing recognition of the need to foster intellectual and artistic expression, leading to the formation of literary clubs as spaces for writers, poets, and scholars to engage in critical discussions, creative exploration, and literary production. These clubs emerged as vital platforms for promoting Arabic literature, preserving cultural heritage, and nurturing a new generation of Saudi writers.

Moreover, their development reflected the Kingdom's evolving relationship with literature and the arts, balancing traditional values with a burgeoning literary movement that sought to address contemporary issues, social identity, and national heritage. "The nation placed a high value on its people as a source of knowledge and a creative outlet. It has developed into one of the largest things at the measure of the Arab world in the literary, artistic, and economic spheres as a result of scientific and literary conferences held in several Saudi educational institutions, which have strengthened literary and critical studies pertinent to Saudi literature" (Dahami, 2024). The influence of education, particularly in the wake of the establishment of the Saudi educational system, encouraged intellectual discourse among the youth. Dahami (2020), states, "the influential nation is the one that holds the properties of development; that is why the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been providing public education".

Furthermore, the educated class bears a great burden in several areas, most notably advancing literature, culture, and awareness in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to match the progress the country has achieved in the field of education and its Arab, Islamic, and international status (Al-Madinah, 2011). Moreover, "the kingdom hastened to build schools, colleges, and universities, and establish periodicals, cultural and press media, as well as other educational and cultural organizations" (Dahami, 2022b). This initiative was spearheaded by a group of passionate writers and intellectuals

who sought to create a platform for literary expression and critique. The establishment of this club marked the beginning of organized literary activities in Saudi Arabia.

### **5.3. Expansion across the Kingdom**

Following the success of the Jeddah Literary Club, which set a precedent for organized literary engagement in Saudi Arabia, numerous similar clubs began to emerge in other major cities, including Riyadh, Dammam, and Khobar. These clubs quickly gained popularity, providing structured spaces where writers, poets, and intellectuals could convene to exchange ideas, review literary works, and engage in cultural discourse. By the 1970s, the proliferation of literary clubs had transformed them into a nationwide phenomenon, reflecting a growing intellectual movement within the Kingdom. Each club functioned as a vital hub for fostering literary talent, supporting emerging writers, and preserving Arabic literary traditions while simultaneously encouraging creative experimentation.

In addition to hosting discussions and poetry readings, these clubs organized lectures, writing workshops, and literary competitions, further enriching Saudi Arabia's literary landscape. As centers of intellectual and artistic expression, they played a crucial role in shaping modern Saudi literature, providing a platform for diverse voices and contributing to the evolution of national cultural identity. The Saudi government's commitment to advancing education and cultural development played a pivotal role in fostering the establishment and growth of literary clubs across the country. Recognizing the importance of literature as a means of intellectual enrichment and cultural preservation, the government implemented policies that encouraged literary and artistic expression within a structured framework.

The Ministry of Culture and Information, in particular, acknowledged the significant role these clubs played in shaping national identity, preserving Saudi Arabia's literary heritage, and providing a platform for writers to engage with contemporary social and intellectual discourse. As a result, the ministry allocated increased funding, resources, and institutional support to ensure the sustainability and expansion of these clubs. This governmental backing allowed literary clubs to host a wide range of activities, including poetry recitations, book launches, academic symposiums, and creative writing workshops, further enriching the country's literary scene. Additionally, the support facilitated collaborations between local and international literary figures, fostering cultural exchange and enhancing Saudi Arabia's presence in the global literary landscape. Through these initiatives, the government not only strengthened the literary movement but also reinforced its vision of literature as a cornerstone of national identity and intellectual progress.

The remarkable growth of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia during the latter half of the 20th century serves as a powerful testament to the Kingdom's dedication to cultivating a dynamic and intellectually stimulating cultural landscape. This expansion was driven by a broader national effort to encourage literary and artistic expression, reflecting the increasing recognition of literature's role in shaping social discourse, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering creative talent. Following the establishment of the first literary club in Jeddah, which set a precedent for structured literary engagement, similar clubs began to emerge across the country, particularly in major cities such as Riyadh, Dammam, Khobar, and Abha. Each of these clubs became a focal point for writers, poets, scholars, and intellectuals, offering a space where literary discussions could flourish, new ideas could be exchanged, and aspiring authors could develop their craft. These institutions not only provided a stage for established and emerging voices but also played a crucial role in strengthening Saudi Arabia's literary identity by encouraging the exploration of themes related to history, tradition, modernization, and social change.

It is noticed that the spreading out of literary clubs throughout the Kingdom, analyzing the key factors that contributed to their rapid proliferation. These include governmental support, particularly from the Ministry of Culture and Information, increasing literacy rates, the rise of

academic institutions, and the broader sociopolitical transformations that influenced Saudi society during this period. Additionally, the discussion highlights the emergence of notable literary clubs in various regions, exploring their unique contributions, the influential writers they nurtured, and the cultural activities they organized. Finally, the issue of expansion assesses the profound impact of this literary movement on Saudi literature and culture, illustrating how these clubs not only enriched the literary landscape but also helped shape the national conversation on identity, heritage, and artistic expression.

#### **5.4. Government Support and Literary Policy**

One of the primary driving forces behind the expansion of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia was the Saudi government's proactive approach to cultural development, which underscored its commitment to fostering intellectual and artistic growth. Recognizing that literature and the arts play a crucial role in shaping national identity, preserving heritage, and promoting intellectual discourse, the government introduced a series of initiatives aimed at nurturing a thriving literary culture. These efforts were rooted in a broader vision of cultural modernization, which sought to balance traditional values with the evolving literary and artistic aspirations of Saudi society.

During the 1970s, a pivotal decade for cultural and educational reform, the Ministry of Culture and Information took significant steps to institutionalize literary activities by allocating substantial resources to support various cultural initiatives. This included direct funding for literary clubs, which enabled them to expand their activities, publish literary works, organize events, and provide platforms for aspiring writers to develop their craft. Beyond financial backing, the government's support also granted literary clubs formal recognition, legitimizing their role as essential institutions within Saudi cultural life. This official endorsement encouraged broader public participation in literary endeavors, fostering a national movement that celebrated literature as a means of intellectual engagement and creative expression.

As a result of this strategic support, literary clubs began to emerge in cities and regions across the Kingdom, extending beyond major urban centers to include smaller towns and cultural hubs. These clubs quickly became gathering spaces for writers, poets, and literary enthusiasts, facilitating discussions, workshops, and collaborative projects that enriched Saudi Arabia's literary landscape. Their presence contributed to the creation of a energetic literary community, where individuals could share ideas, critique works, and collectively contribute to the evolving narrative of Saudi literature. By nurturing both established and emerging voices, these clubs played a vital role in shaping the country's literary identity and ensuring that cultural expression remained an integral part of national development.

#### **5.5. Rise of Education and Literacy**

The development of the Saudi education system and the increasing literacy rates over the past few decades have played a crucial role in the progress of literary clubs. Before the formalization of modern education in the Kingdom, access to literature and literary discourse was largely limited to religious scholars, oral poetry traditions, and private study circles. However, as education policies expanded, literacy rates improved, and universities were established, a new generation of Saudi readers and writers emerged, fueling the growth of literary clubs. The rise of education and literacy in Saudi Arabia was not just a background factor but also a driving force in the progress of literary clubs. It expanded the audience for literature, nurtured new generations of writers and critics, diversified literary discussions, and provided institutional support that helped these clubs thrive. As Saudi Arabia continues to invest in education and cultural development, literary clubs are likely to remain central to the country's literary and intellectual landscape. The establishment of universities and educational institutions in the 1960s and 1970s led to an increase in the number of educated individuals interested in literature and the arts.

The kingdom hurried to inaugurate and support schools, universities, communal colleges, educational establishments, cultural and mass media, newspapers, and many others. All such cultural and educational elements significantly contributed to Saudi literature's revival in general and poetry in particular. The dominant nation is the one that grips the belongings and components of development and advance; that is why the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been affording and encouraging public education and schooling with its all principles (Dahami, 2021).

As more Saudis pursued higher education, particularly in fields such as Arabic literature, linguistics, and the humanities, the demand for intellectual spaces where individuals could discuss, critique, and share literary works increased significantly. The university environment, with its emphasis on research, literary analysis, and creative expression, nurtured a new generation of readers and writers who sought outlets beyond the classroom to further explore their literary interests. This educated demographic—comprising students, professors, poets, novelists, and literary critics—became the backbone of literary clubs. Universities not only introduced students to classical and contemporary literary traditions but also encouraged critical thinking, debate, and the exchange of ideas. Many students and graduates joined literary clubs to connect with like-minded peers, refine their writing, and contribute to broader discussions about literature, culture, and society.

Literary clubs in Saudi Arabia evolved beyond being simple venues for poetry readings or book discussions. They transformed into dynamic cultural institutions that facilitated intellectual discourse on a wide range of topics, including philosophy, history, social issues, and global literary trends. The clubs hosted lectures, panel discussions, and debates that allowed members to engage critically with literary movements, analyze evolving themes in Saudi and Arabic literature, and explore the intersections between literature and other disciplines. Additionally, these clubs played a crucial role in bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical literary engagement. While universities provided theoretical foundations in literature and criticism, literary clubs allowed members to apply these insights in real-world literary discussions and creative writing workshops. Aspiring writers found opportunities to receive constructive feedback on their work, while established authors used the clubs as platforms to share their latest publications and mentor emerging talent.

Beyond their function as literary spaces, these clubs also became centers for broader cultural and intellectual engagement. They provided an inclusive environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds—whether university students, educators, government officials, or independent writers—could converge to exchange ideas. This diversity enriched discussions, as participants brought different perspectives influenced by their academic disciplines, professional experiences, and personal literary tastes. Furthermore, as Saudi Arabia modernized and developed a more interconnected cultural scene, literary clubs attracted attention from policymakers and cultural institutions. The government, recognizing their role in fostering intellectual and artistic growth, began to support these clubs through grants, sponsorships, and participation in national literary festivals. Such support further legitimized the role of literary clubs as important cultural entities within the Saudi literary landscape. The rise of higher education in Saudi Arabia directly contributed to the expansion and evolution of literary clubs. These clubs became essential spaces for educated individuals to engage in meaningful literary and intellectual discussions, fostering a culture of critical analysis and creative expression. By serving as both literary and intellectual pivots, they enhanced their appeal and solidified their place as key institutions within Saudi Arabia's literary and cultural framework.

## 6. Discussion

The historical background of Saudi literary clubs is a testament to the resilience and determination of Saudi intellectuals in the face of challenges. From their humble beginnings as informal gatherings to their recognition as formal institutions, these clubs have played a foundational

role in shaping the Kingdom's literary and cultural identity. Their early efforts not only laid the groundwork for future growth but also demonstrated the transformative power of literature in bridging the gap between tradition and modernity.

The expansion of literary clubs across Saudi Arabia has been a significant development in the country's cultural and literary landscape. Driven by government support, rising literacy rates, and the passion of local writers, these clubs have established themselves as vital spaces for creativity, expression, and intellectual discourse. As they continue to thrive and evolve, literary clubs undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping the future of Saudi literature, fostering diverse voices, and contributing to the Kingdom's rich cultural heritage.

## **7. Recommendations**

The study might bring out three suggestions for future examinations and research. The first point might deal with the Impact of Literary Clubs on Emerging Writers. Further studies could examine how these clubs contribute to the development of young and emerging Saudi writers. Interviews and case studies of contemporary authors who were nurtured by these clubs would provide deeper insights. Saudi literary clubs have played a significant role in nurturing emerging writers by providing structured mentorship, literary competitions, and publication opportunities. Many renowned Saudi authors, such as Ghazi Al-Gosaibi and Mohammad Hasan Awwad, began their literary journeys through these clubs, where they had access to experienced poets, novelists, and critics. A study of these factors would provide deeper insights into how literary clubs serve as incubators for new literary voices and contribute to the evolution of Saudi literature.

The second point is about the role of women in Saudi Literary Clubs. While the manuscript discusses the broad contributions of these clubs, a focused study on the increasing participation of women in literary activities, leadership roles, and the publication of women's literature would add a valuable perspective. The participation of women in Saudi literary clubs has evolved significantly, especially in recent decades, as cultural policies have encouraged greater inclusivity. Women writers, poets, and critics have increasingly gained recognition in Saudi literary circles, contributing new perspectives and enriching the national literary landscape. The study would help assess how literary clubs have empowered female authors and how they continue to shape the future of women's literature in the Kingdom.

The last point deals with the future of Saudi literary clubs in a changing cultural landscape. A study on the sustainability and future prospects of Saudi literary clubs, considering economic, technological, and sociopolitical changes, would be beneficial in understanding their evolving role. With Saudi Arabia undergoing rapid cultural and technological transformations, literary clubs must adapt to new modes of engagement to remain relevant. The increasing influence of digital literature, government-led cultural initiatives, and international collaborations are shaping the literary scene in new ways. Such a study would offer insights into how literary clubs can continue to serve as vital cultural institutions in the rapidly evolving Saudi literary landscape.

## **8. Conclusion**

The development of Saudi literary clubs represents a success story in enhancing cultural identity and enriching the literary scene in the Kingdom. The evolution of Saudi literary clubs stands as a testament to their pivotal role in strengthening the cultural identity of the Kingdom while contributing significantly to its literary and intellectual landscape. From their inception, these clubs have acted as cultural beacons, preserving and celebrating the heritage, language, and artistic traditions of the region. Through their initiatives, they have provided a platform for dialogue and exploration, where Saudi writers, poets, and intellectuals could express their ideas and articulate their experiences. This has not only fostered a deeper appreciation of Saudi Arabia's unique cultural legacy but also positioned its literary contributions to the global stage. As the clubs have grown and adapted,

they have enriched the literary scene with an increasingly diverse array of voices and genres, reflecting the dynamic interplay of tradition and modernity that defines the Kingdom's cultural identity.

Saudi literary clubs have played an instrumental role in shaping the country's literary landscape. From their humble beginnings in the 70s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to their current status as lively pivots of creativity and discourse, these clubs have fostered talent, diversified literary forms, and promoted cultural exchange. As Saudi Arabia continues to evolve, the importance of literary clubs in nurturing a rich literary tradition cannot be overstated. Their contributions to Saudi literature will undoubtedly resonate for generations to come, as they play a crucial role in preserving and promoting the Kingdom's cultural heritage. The emergence and growth of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia have significantly influenced the development of the country's literary scene. These clubs have created a nurturing environment for writers, facilitated the exploration of diverse literary forms, and contributed to the broader cultural dialogue within Saudi society. This section delves into the multifaceted contributions of literary clubs to Saudi literature, highlighting their role in nurturing talent, promoting diverse literary forms, fostering cultural exchange, and enhancing the visibility of Saudi authors on the global stage.

The contributions of literary clubs to Saudi literature are both profound and far-reaching. By nurturing talent, promoting diverse literary forms, fostering cultural exchange, and enhancing the visibility of Saudi authors, these clubs have significantly enriched the literary landscape of the Kingdom. As they continue to evolve and adapt to the changing cultural context, literary clubs will remain essential to the development of a spirited and dynamic literary community in Saudi Arabia. The future of Saudi literature is undoubtedly bright, thanks to the unwavering support and dedication of these clubs and their members.

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