

***Saudi literary clubs and
their contribution to the
Saudi literature***

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Abstract:

This study explores the pivotal role of Saudi literary clubs as literary, cultural, and social institutions that significantly contribute to the development and promotion of literature in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Established in the 1970s, these clubs serve as vital platforms for intellectual exchange, fostering a rich literary environment through a variety of events, including poetry readings, seminars, and workshops. By facilitating communication among writers, poets, and intellectuals, they cultivate emerging talent and preserve the Kingdom's literary heritage while also introducing Saudi literature to international audiences. The study highlights the historical context in which these clubs emerged, the evolution of their activities over the decades, and their impact on the literary landscape of Saudi Arabia. It details the expansion of literary clubs from major cities to encompass smaller regions, thus enriching the diversity of voices within Saudi literature. The study further examines the clubs' adaptation to modernity, particularly their embrace of digital platforms to enhance accessibility and engagement, especially during challenging times..

Keywords: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
literary clubs; literary influence; roles of
literary clubs; Saudi literature

1. *Introduction*

Saudi literary clubs stand as vital cultural and social institutions dedicated to fostering and promoting literary and cultural activities across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Literary clubs have organized many cultural events and activities over half a century through lectures, seminars, poetry, and story evenings. They have contributed significantly to introducing Saudi culture abroad through their publications or by hosting Arab intellectuals to participate in their activities. They have worked to build bridges of communication between writers and intellectuals in the Kingdom (Faye'a, 2025). These literary organizations serve as hubs for intellectual engagement, providing a platform for writers, poets, and artists to highlight their talents and contribute to the social, cultural, and literary fabric of the nation. The number of literary clubs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is sixteen, and they have contributed to literary and cultural production since the establishment of the first of them in 1975 (Khan, 2014: Saudipedia, n.d.). Functioning as incubators for creative expression, the clubs have become spaces where literary works are celebrated and dialogues on diverse topics flourish, reflecting the dynamic cultural landscape of Saudi society. By facilitating access to resources such as workshops, publications, and events, these clubs play a crucial role in nurturing emerging talent while preserving and promoting the Kingdom's rich literary heritage. Their mission extends beyond mere promotion of the arts, as they actively

encourage a deeper understanding of Saudi Arabia's history, traditions, and evolving identity through literature and culture. Besides, Saudi authorities recognized that supporting learning, schooling, and gaining knowledge, along with culture, could be a decisive element in the nation's affluence and power (Dahami, 2022b).

Established in the 1970s, these literary clubs marked a pioneering step in supporting the burgeoning literary and creative movement within the Kingdom. At a time when Saudi Arabia was undergoing significant social and economic transformation, these institutions provided a much-needed environment for intellectual exchange and artistic collaboration. By creating spaces where writers and intellectuals could interact and share ideas, the clubs contributed to a broader cultural renaissance in the country. They became instrumental in facilitating discussions on pressing social, cultural, and literary issues, thereby enriching the intellectual discourse and inspiring new generations of writers and thinkers. It can be said that the Saudi cultural product has acquired the authenticity that makes it a unique voice, indicative of its incubating environment and the formation of its vocabulary. It is no longer an echo of other cultures or an imitation of their creativity, which also necessitates that this voice, which has grown in the cradle of authenticity and development, be carried on the shoulders of a party that has a distinguished and influential presence in similar forums that care about literature in our great Arab homeland (Yamani, 2017). Furthermore, their activities, ranging from

organizing poetry readings and literary festivals to publishing books and academic journals, have had a lasting impact on the Kingdom's literary and cultural development, reinforcing their significance as key players in Saudi Arabia's cultural evolution. Al-Muharib (2012), declares that the subject of literary clubs and publishing is too big to be contained within this work, but the reference to it here came in the context of emphasizing the growth of book publishing in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, 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).

In their early stages, literary clubs emerged across various regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, establishing a foundational network that spanned key cultural and urban centers such as Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Medina, and Mecca. These cities, each with its own unique historical and cultural significance, provided fertile ground for the establishment of institutions that aimed to unite and nurture the burgeoning literary community. By creating hubs in these regions, the literary clubs succeeded in addressing the local needs of writers, poets, and intellectuals while simultaneously fostering a sense of national identity through literature and culture. "Within the Kingdom itself, there are many occasions and festivals, lectures given in the literary clubs and universities, and private events in the houses of the cultured" (Al-Qahtani, 1994, p. 38). In

Riyadh, the heart of political and intellectual discourse, literary clubs acted as arenas for discussing pressing cultural topics. In Jeddah, a city known for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, the clubs reflected a blend of traditional and modern influences, mirroring the diverse cultural interactions within the city. Similarly, in cities like Medina and Mecca, the clubs drew inspiration from the deeply rooted spiritual and historical heritage of these regions, integrating it into their literary and cultural initiatives. In addition "This cultural interaction enhances the development of Saudi literature and enriches it by learning about diverse literary experiences" (Dahami, 2026a). Another element that contributed to the development of the Saudi Literary Club is the political and social stability that the Kingdom enjoyed. Culture, as is well known, cannot grow and develop except in a politically and socially stable society (Fadel, 1998, p. 161). This geographic diversity not only enriched the literary movement but also allowed the clubs to cater to the specific cultural and intellectual dynamics of each city, contributing to the overall development of Saudi literature.

Over time, these literary clubs grew beyond their initial functions to become vibrant centers of attraction for a wide range of participants, including intellectuals, poets, writers, critics, and enthusiasts of literature. There are a large number of literary clubs that do not exist in most Arab countries (Al-Muhaimid, 2008). Their evolution was marked by a shift from merely organizing literary gatherings to becoming influential institutions that played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural

and intellectual landscape of Saudi Arabia. Poets found in these clubs a platform to recite and refine their verses, while writers shared their stories and ideas, sparking lively debates and collaborations. Critics, on the other hand, brought analytical depth to discussions, providing constructive feedback and encouraging higher standards of literary production. For those interested in literature, the clubs served as spaces of inspiration and learning, where they could engage with seasoned authors and emerging talents alike. The clubs also became sites for multidisciplinary engagement, hosting events that bridged literature with art, music, and history, further broadening their appeal. History is a trustworthy witness, so, almost in the sixties of the twentieth century, and perhaps before, the renewal movements began in Saudi poetry that identified with the Arab heritage in its glorious eras (Dahami, 2022d). Furthermore, “the social, economic, and cultural developments in the region indicate that Saudi poetry has expanded in an appealing way” (Dahami, 2024). This dynamic growth transformed literary clubs into cornerstones of Saudi Arabia's cultural renaissance, fostering a vibrant literary community that continues to thrive and inspire to this day.

Anyone following the Saudi literary movement will find that literary clubs have played an important role in expressing our bright Saudi history, our identity, and our inspiring Arab civilization over the course of four consecutive decades. Literary clubs have inflamed and ignited the minds of their young and teenage visitors. They have also filled their hearts with feelings of love

for the homeland and belonging to it, and an attempt to push it and change its features for the better that befits it (Al-Masoudi, 2018). The emergence of literary clubs in Saudi Arabia during the 1970s coincided with a period of significant cultural and social transformation within the Kingdom. This era was marked by rapid economic growth fueled by the discovery of oil, which led to substantial investments in education, infrastructure, and social development.

Amidst this boom, a heightened sense of national identity and cultural pride began to take shape, inspiring a collective desire to preserve and promote the Kingdom's rich literary and artistic heritage.

The economic power of Saudi Arabia has supported the expansion of education, scholarship, and international academic exchange and has opened Saudis to the world's issues, arts, and cultures ... one of the most important changes was the excellent educational opportunities available to Saudi citizens in regional and international institutions. Specifically, many universities, publishing houses, public and private libraries, literary clubs, literary magazines, bookshops, and cultural and literary salons hosted by influential men and women were established and funded in many Saudi cities (Alharbi, 2022).

The establishment of literary clubs during this time was not only a response to these societal changes but also an acknowledgment of the growing need for

structured platforms where intellectual and artistic expressions could flourish. These clubs symbolized a broader cultural awakening and represented an institutional commitment to fostering dialogue, creativity, and intellectual growth across the nation.

2. Literature Review

Through extensive reading, searching, and investigating previous studies related to Saudi literary clubs and their contributions to Saudi literature, this research has found an intriguing gap in the existing literature. Despite the growing interest in cultural and literary developments within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, no studies have specifically addressed the role and impact of literary clubs on the literary landscape. This absence is striking, as literary clubs often serve as vital hubs for creativity, dialogue, and the promotion of local authors. The lack of previous research on this topic not only highlights its uniqueness but also raises important questions about why these clubs have remained underexplored in academic discourse.

The absence of prior studies underscores the relevance and necessity of this research. It indicates a genuine need to investigate how these literary clubs operate, their historical significance, and the contributions they make to fostering literary talent and cultural expression in Saudi Arabia. By addressing this previously unexplored area of inquiry, the research has the potential to fill a significant gap in the literature, making it more impactful and valuable to scholars, practitioners, and enthusiasts of Saudi

literature. Furthermore, the originality of the topic positions this study as a pioneering effort, paving the way for future investigations into the cultural dynamics and literary movements within the kingdom. This foundational work can inspire further research, encouraging a deeper grasping and appreciation of the role that literary clubs play in shaping the narrative of Saudi literature in contemporary society.

3. Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to assess the contributions to Saudi literature. It measures the impact of literary clubs on the promotion and nurturing of Saudi literature, including the development of emerging writers and the preservation of cultural heritage. The primary objective of this study is to thoroughly assess the contributions of literary clubs to Saudi literature. These clubs have emerged as pivotal institutions within the Kingdom, playing a significant role in shaping the literary landscape. By fostering an environment conducive to creative expression, they provide essential support to writers and poets at various stages of their careers. The study aims to explore how these clubs not only promote literary activities but also serve as incubators for emerging talent, offering workshops, mentorship programs, and platforms for showcasing new works. Understanding the extent of their contributions is vital for recognizing the integral role these institutions play in the cultural fabric of Saudi society and how they influence the broader literary discourse.

Furthermore, this study critically examines the impact of literary clubs on the promotion and nurturing of Saudi literature, with a particular focus on the development of emerging writers and the preservation of cultural heritage. Literary clubs facilitate numerous events such as poetry readings, literary festivals, and workshops that actively engage the community and encourage participation from diverse voices. By providing a space where writers can share their work and receive constructive feedback, these clubs contribute significantly to the refinement of literary skills. Additionally, they play a crucial role in preserving and celebrating the Kingdom's rich cultural heritage by emphasizing traditional literary forms while also encouraging innovation and modern interpretations. Through this dual focus on nurturing new talent and preserving cultural identity, literary clubs are establishing themselves as vital players in the ongoing evolution of Saudi literature.

4. Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research design to investigate the contributions of Saudi literary clubs to the literary landscape of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The methodology is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of the clubs' historical evolution, activities, and cultural impact. This study employs a qualitative research design to investigate the contributions of Saudi literary clubs to the literary landscape of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Literary clubs have historically played a significant role in fostering a rich cultural dialogue and promoting literary

expression within the kingdom. By focusing on a qualitative approach, this research aims to gather in-depth insights into the unique dynamics of these clubs, including their membership, leadership, and the diverse genres of literature they promote. Such an exploration not only highlights the clubs' influence on local authors and poets but also reflects the broader societal changes within Saudi Arabia, particularly in the context of increased cultural openness and engagement.

The methodology is structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of the clubs' historical evolution, activities, and cultural impact. Through interviews, participant observations, and analysis of club materials, the study seeks to trace the origins of these literary clubs and how they have adapted over time in response to changing cultural and political landscapes. By examining the events, workshops, and literary discussions organized by these clubs, the research will shed light on their role as platforms for creative expression and community building. Ultimately, this investigation aims to illuminate how Saudi literary clubs contribute to the preservation and innovation of literature in the kingdom, fostering a vibrant literary scene that resonates with both local and international audiences.

5. Results of the Study

5.1. Development of the Literary Clubs

Like any developed entity, literary clubs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have undergone significant transformation and remarkable development over the past several decades. From their humble beginnings to their current status as influential cultural institutions, these clubs have consistently adapted to the changing dynamics of Saudi society. Initially established to address the growing demand for organized platforms that nurture intellectual and literary pursuits, these clubs quickly evolved into vibrant cultural exchange and creativity centers. Their journey reflects the broader evolution of Saudi Arabia's cultural landscape, shaped by the nation's economic progress, educational advancements, and social transformations. "Saudi literature has witnessed a major transformation that can be considered the most prominent in the movement of cultural transformations. This is because of what media institutions, publishing houses, and literary communication movements provide" (Dahami, 2022c; Alsanani, 2021). Over the years, literary clubs have become more than just venues for intellectual discussion; they have emerged as cultural beacons that inspire creativity, foster a love of literature, and encourage dialogue on critical social and artistic issues, positioning themselves as vital contributors to the Kingdom's cultural identity.

5.2. Establishment Phase (1970s)

With the advent of the 1970s, Saudi Arabia experienced a significant cultural and social renaissance, driven by rapid modernization and economic development. This transformative period brought about a heightened awareness of the importance of preserving and promoting the Kingdom's cultural and intellectual heritage. Amidst this atmosphere of progress, the need for organized platforms to support literature, thought, and culture became increasingly evident. Intellectuals and writers sought venues where they could express their ideas, share their works, and engage in meaningful dialogues about the cultural and literary challenges of the time. This need to lay the groundwork for the establishment of literary clubs, which emerged as pivotal institutions in fostering creativity and promoting intellectual exchange during a period of profound societal change.

Literary clubs organized by the presidency's various branch offices are extremely popular. They offer an opportunity for young Saudis to study Arabic literature, and sponsor classes and competitions in essay writing, poetry, history, and Islam (Saudi Arabia Safarah, 1992, p. 10). Furthermore, the experience of literary clubs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia constituted an important stage, extending for nearly 50 years. A group of literary pioneers in the city of Jeddah from the first generation submitted letters to the General President of Youth Welfare, Prince Faisal bin Fahd, requesting the establishment of a literary club that would represent an official headquarters to

contain their literary activities. After the approval of His Highness the Prince, writers from other cities were encouraged to repeat the request, and approximately 12 literary clubs were launched at first. Then they doubled to 24 clubs and continued to provide literary activities such as lectures, seminars, poetry and story evenings, issuing publications and books, and critical studies books. Some clubs developed their activities by issuing periodical cultural magazines, and others developed their activities by holding literary forums, calling themselves cultural literary clubs (Al-Khadri, 2023).

At first, literary clubs appeared under the name (literary club), which means that the literary club is primarily concerned with literature and its creators. Literary clubs followed this line, and there was great interaction with them in terms of the quantity and quality of activities and the number of attendees until they became beacons of radiance that attracted creators in the literary field. The activities of these clubs and their outputs became rich material for cultural pages and supplements. The local literary movement became the talk of the Arab cultural street. What happened after that was the tendency of some literary clubs to change the name with which they were born, so they added the name (cultural) to their literature; some of them are called cultural literary clubs, some of them are called cultural literary clubs, and some of them are still called literary clubs (Al-Madinah, 2015).

During this foundational phase, literary clubs were established in major cities

across the Kingdom, including Riyadh, Jeddah, Mecca, Dammam, and Medina. These cities, each with its unique historical and cultural significance, provided fertile ground for these clubs to flourish. In Riyadh, the capital and a burgeoning hub of education and intellectual activity, the clubs offered a formal space for discussions and debates on contemporary issues. Jeddah, with its cosmopolitan character and historical connection to trade and the arts, saw its clubs attract a diverse audience eager to explore new cultural horizons. In Mecca and Medina, deeply rooted in spiritual and historical traditions, literary clubs became platforms for bridging religious heritage with modern intellectual thought. By establishing these clubs in key urban centers, the Kingdom ensured that the literary movement reached a wide and varied audience, laying the foundation for a vibrant cultural ecosystem.

The primary objective of these clubs was to support creators and intellectuals by providing opportunities for them to display their work and engage with peers. They became spaces where poets, writers, and thinkers could convene to share their ideas and collaborate on creative projects. These clubs played a critical role in fostering a sense of community among intellectuals, encouraging dialogue that not only enriched individual participants but also contributed to the collective cultural identity of Saudi society. Through their activities, the clubs sought to highlight the value of literature and the arts as essential components of societal progress. By offering an environment that nurtured

creativity and intellectual exploration, they helped bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, ensuring that the Kingdom's cultural identity remained dynamic and relevant in an era of rapid change.

5.3. Expansion and Development Phase (1980s - 1990s)

During the transformative decades of the 1980s and 1990s, literary clubs underwent significant growth, extending their presence beyond major urban centers to encompass smaller cities and governorates across the kingdom. This expansion marked a pivotal moment in the evolution of the cultural landscape, as it made literary and intellectual activities more accessible to a broader segment of the population. The geographical spread of these clubs not only bridged the cultural divide between metropolitan areas and rural communities but also nurtured a sense of regional pride by giving local voices a platform. As a result, communities that were previously disconnected from the mainstream cultural discourse began to participate actively, fostering a richer and more diverse literary tradition. The movement's ability to unite disparate regions through a shared appreciation for literature and the arts significantly contributed to the kingdom's cultural cohesion during this period.

The expansion of literary clubs was bolstered by increased government support, which played a crucial role in their development and sustainability. Recognizing the importance of cultural enrichment for national identity and intellectual growth, the government began

allocating more funding and resources to these institutions. This support enabled clubs to establish permanent headquarters, build libraries, and invest in modern facilities, such as auditoriums and exhibition spaces, that could accommodate larger audiences. With improved infrastructure, literary clubs were able to host a wider range of events, from poetry readings and book launches to debates and workshops. The government's involvement also lent these clubs greater legitimacy and visibility, encouraging collaboration with other cultural organizations and inspiring further public interest. This period of enhanced support demonstrated the government's commitment to fostering an environment where intellectual and cultural activities could thrive.

One of the most significant outcomes of this era was the emergence of literary magazines and cultural bulletins published by the clubs. These publications became vital tools for documenting and disseminating the intellectual and creative achievements of the kingdom's writers, poets, and thinkers. By providing a platform for literary criticism, original poetry, fiction, and essays, the magazines highlighted the diverse talents of local authors while also fostering a sense of community among contributors. Furthermore, the publications served as historical records, capturing the intellectual currents and cultural debates of the time. They played an essential role in raising the profiles of emerging writers and encouraging scholarly dialogue, both within the kingdom and beyond its borders. By prioritizing quality content and

addressing a wide range of topics, these magazines contributed to the intellectual vitality of the cultural movement, cementing the legacy of literary clubs as pivotal cultural institutions.

As literary clubs matured, they began organizing larger and more ambitious events that drew the attention of intellectuals, artists, and literary enthusiasts both locally and internationally. Cultural exhibitions, for example, provided a platform to reveal visual art, photography, and historical artifacts, creating a multidisciplinary dialogue that complemented literary pursuits. Similarly, literary conferences became signature events where prominent authors, scholars, and critics convened to discuss contemporary issues in literature, philosophy, and cultural theory. Activities of literary clubs as well as other festivals, in different gatherings, have “contributed and continues to contribute to stimulating the development of contemporary Saudi literature, encouraging writers to engage with the cultural and social issues facing the kingdom” (Dahami, 2026b). These gatherings not only highlighted the kingdom’s growing influence in the intellectual sphere but also facilitated cross-cultural exchanges by inviting participants from other countries. The clubs’ ability to host such events demonstrated their increasing organizational capacity and influence, reinforcing their role as cultural ambassadors of the kingdom. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, these events contributed to a vibrant intellectual

ecosystem that resonated far beyond the borders of the kingdom.

5.4. Diversity and Openness Phase (2000s)

With the beginning of the third millennium, literary clubs witnessed greater openness to various forms of arts and cultures and began to adopt a more comprehensive approach. As the world entered the third millennium, literary clubs in the kingdom underwent a remarkable transformation characterized by a broader embrace of diverse art forms and cultural expressions. This period marked a shift from a primarily literary focus to a more inclusive and multidisciplinary approach, reflecting the evolving needs and interests of a rapidly modernizing society. Literary clubs began to incorporate elements of visual arts, cinema, and performing arts into their programs, recognizing the interconnectedness of these creative fields and their collective power to shape cultural narratives. This openness was also influenced by global cultural currents and technological advancements that facilitated exposure to international trends. The decision issued by the Ministry of Culture and Information to renew the administrations of literary clubs in the Kingdom was a step that encouraged a transitional phase in literary and cultural work (Ziyad et al., 2007). By embracing these broader artistic and cultural dimensions, literary clubs redefined their mission and scope, positioning themselves as dynamic hubs for creativity, intellectual exchange, and cultural dialogue.

Another significant area of impact has been the increasing focus on inclusivity within Saudi literary clubs. In recent years, these clubs have made deliberate efforts to highlight the voices of women and youth, who have historically faced barriers to participation in cultural activities. This shift has led to the emergence of new literary voices that challenge traditional narratives and expand the scope of Saudi literature. By empowering these groups, literary clubs have not only enriched the literary landscape but also aligned themselves with broader societal changes in the Kingdom.

Literary clubs became interested in organizing activities that combined literature, visual arts, theater, and music, which added new dimensions to the cultural movement. The integration of multiple art forms into the activities of literary clubs enriched the cultural movement in profound ways. Events such as poetry readings accompanied by live musical performances or art exhibitions featuring pieces inspired by literary works became common. Theaters within the clubs hosted plays and dramatic readings that brought literature to life through performance, creating an immersive experience for audiences. Music festivals, interdisciplinary workshops, and collaborative projects between writers and visual artists further blurred the boundaries between disciplines, fostering innovation and creativity. These multidimensional events not only broadened the appeal of literary clubs but also attracted more diverse audiences, including those who might not have traditionally engaged with literature. This synergy between literature

and the arts created a vibrant cultural landscape where ideas flowed freely across mediums, enriching both the creators and their audiences.

The focus also began to enhance the role of youth and women in literary and cultural activities, which led to the emergence of new and influential voices in the Saudi literary arena. An important hallmark of this era was the deliberate effort by literary clubs to empower youth and women, groups that had historically been underrepresented in the cultural sphere. Recognizing the potential of these voices to drive innovation and diversity, clubs began to create platforms specifically designed to highlight their contributions. Writing competitions, mentorship programs, and youth-led cultural forums encouraged young authors and artists to share their perspectives and develop their craft. Simultaneously, the inclusion of women in leadership roles within literary clubs and as featured participants in events allowed for a richer exploration of themes related to gender, identity, and social change. These efforts culminated in the emergence of a new generation of writers and artists whose work resonated deeply within the kingdom and beyond. By giving a voice to these groups, literary clubs not only diversified the cultural movement but also ensured its relevance and sustainability for future generations.

5.5. Digital Transformation Phase (2010s - Present)

With the development of technology and the emergence of social media, literary clubs began to adopt digital means to

disseminate their activities and communicate with a wider audience. The rapid advancement of technology and the rise of social media platforms in the early 21st century revolutionized how literary clubs operated and interacted with their audiences. Recognizing the transformative potential of digital tools, these clubs began leveraging the internet to extend their reach beyond physical spaces, enabling them to connect with a much broader and more diverse audience. Social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram became powerful tools for promoting events, sharing updates, and engaging in real-time conversations with followers. This shift allowed literary clubs to break free from the constraints of traditional communication methods, such as printed flyers or word-of-mouth announcements, which often limited their reach. By adopting these modern means, literary clubs not only enhanced their visibility but also embraced a more interactive and dynamic approach to cultural exchange, making their activities more accessible and inclusive.

The digital revolution has further amplified the contributions of Saudi literary clubs to the literary scene. Recent studies highlight the adoption of digital platforms as a pivotal development in extending the reach of these institutions. Virtual events, social media engagement, and online publications have allowed literary clubs to transcend geographical limitations and connect with a global audience. This evolution reflects the adaptability of Saudi literary institutions in embracing modern tools to fulfill their mission.

Digital platforms have become a major means of organizing virtual events, such as poetry evenings and cultural seminars, which have contributed to overcoming geographical barriers and increasing interaction with a diverse audience. The adoption of digital platforms marked a significant turning point in the way literary clubs conducted their events. Virtual gatherings, such as online poetry evenings, book discussions, and cultural seminars, became integral to their programming, particularly during periods of social restrictions or for audiences in remote locations. These events eliminated the geographical and logistical barriers that previously limited participation, allowing people from across the kingdom—and even internationally—to engage with the literary and cultural activities of the clubs. The interactive nature of digital platforms fostered a sense of community, as attendees could participate in discussions, share feedback, and connect with speakers and fellow participants in real time. Furthermore, the recorded sessions of these events often remained accessible online, providing an invaluable archive of cultural and intellectual content. This digital transformation not only democratized access to the literary world but also significantly enriched the cultural dialogue by bringing together voices from diverse backgrounds.

At this stage, clubs have focused on enhancing their digital presence by launching websites and pages on social media platforms to publish news and events and to make literary publications available to the public. Recognizing the

importance of a robust digital presence, literary clubs invested considerable effort into creating dedicated websites and social media pages. These platforms served as central hubs for their activities, offering up-to-date information about upcoming events, literary publications, and cultural initiatives. According to Al-Shuwaikh, (2012), for the purposes of following up on performance in the literary arena, what is available are lists of literary publications of poetry, short stories, criticism, novels, etc., and lists of events of platform activities such as lectures and seminars. For example, the seminars in Okaz (Souq Okath) as in the literary clubs, are still presented in the same style that Hamza Shehata and Mohammed Al-Awad started, which is that the speakers sit at a table, and the seminar director takes over the introduction and transfers the conversation from one speaker to another. Each speaker is given a certain amount of time (Al-Sayed, 2012). Websites often feature comprehensive archives of club magazines, articles, and newsletters, enabling the public to access a wealth of literary and intellectual resources with just a few clicks. Meanwhile, social media pages provided a

more immediate and interactive channel for outreach, fostering direct communication with audiences and promoting real-time engagement. Clubs also used these platforms to showcase the work of local writers and artists, publish announcements, and share live-streamed or recorded events. By embracing these digital tools, literary clubs ensured that their activities remained relevant and accessible in an increasingly tech-savvy world, solidifying their role as key players in the cultural landscape of the kingdom.

6. DISCUSSION

Despite the successes achieved by literary clubs, they face challenges such as the need to attract more young people, enhance diversity in activities, and keep pace with global cultural developments. However, Saudi literary clubs remain leading institutions in supporting the literary and cultural movement and are expected to continue to play a major role in developing the cultural scene in the Kingdom, which gives great priority to, culture, literature, and arts.

7. CONCLUSION

The establishment and development of Saudi literary clubs have played a transformative role in shaping the literary and cultural identity of the Kingdom. These institutions, emerging during the mid-20th century, have not only provided a platform for the literary community to flourish but also significantly influenced the trajectory of Saudi literature by fostering creativity, nurturing talent, and promoting intellectual discourse. The literature on Saudi literary clubs underscores their multifaceted contributions to the Kingdom's literary and cultural environment. From nurturing talent and publishing literary works to fostering dialogue and embracing technological advancements, these clubs have played an indispensable role in shaping the identity of Saudi literature. As they continue to evolve, they remain central to the Kingdom's efforts to preserve its rich literary and cultural heritage while embracing the dynamics of a globalized world.

Throughout their various stages, these clubs have proven their ability to adapt to cultural and social changes while maintaining their role as incubators of creativity and literary talent. Over the decades, Saudi literary clubs have demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, evolving in response to the Kingdom's shifting cultural, social, and technological landscapes. Whether navigating the rapid urbanization of the mid-20th century or embracing the digital revolution of the 21st century, these clubs have consistently redefined their methods

and priorities to remain relevant and effective. At every stage, they have maintained their commitment to nurturing creativity and fostering literary talent, offering resources, mentorship, and platforms for both emerging and established writers. By hosting events, publishing works, and engaging with diverse audiences, the clubs have cultivated a rich ecosystem that supports literary innovation and exploration. Their ability to balance continuity with change has ensured their enduring significance as cultural institutions, positioning them as vital contributors to the Kingdom's ongoing cultural renaissance. Saudi literary clubs have not only played a crucial role in shaping the Kingdom's literary identity but have also become instrumental in fostering a deeper understanding of Saudi society's history and cultural evolution. This study underscores their significance as cornerstones of a vibrant literary community that continues to thrive and inspire future generations.

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