



Kuwait

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The future of inclusive education in Kuwait

It is universally agreed that an individual needs to learn to acquire knowledge and proficiency in the disposition of life situations and to have the skills to satisfy such requirements. Governments have the responsibility to provide educational opportunities for all members of the society no matter how varied their educational needs and different desires and abilities are.

I. The State of Kuwait's Commitment to Inclusive Education requires all state organs to move towards the realization of the comprehensive goal of education together with what's stipulated in the Constitution of the State of Kuwait and the laws issued in this regard. They all emphasize that education should be borne and sponsored by the state.

Education is a right guaranteed by the state for all Kuwaitis; It is compulsory and free in its early stages by law. Laws reflect the commitment as stipulated in the constitution.

The Compulsory Education Act of 1965 is one of the most outstanding laws in this concern. The State of Kuwait, through the strategy of education development, is keen on supporting all efforts to push forward the education process to prepare citizens educationally and culturally to face the challenges of life. This is resembled in directing attention to the qualitative development of educational stages as far as educational objectives, study plans and curricula are concerned, and focusing on the introduction of modern technology in education to keep pace with global development.

The results of mid-term assessment in 2002 have demonstrated that most indicators of the educational process in Kuwait achieve the goals of education for all.

Among these indicators are the following:

- The enrollment rate for Kuwaiti children was 92.3%, while the proportion of new entrants to the first grade of the primary stage was 96.5% and the gross enrollment ratio in primary education has amounted to 100.13%, it was 101.9% in the intermediate stage and 99% in secondary education.



They proved equal gender participation rate at all levels of education in Kuwait.

- The umbrella of education for all extends to provide educational opportunities for slow learners and Down's syndrome children in special classes in general education.
- On-going education centres, attached to the University of Kuwait and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, play an important role in providing knowledge and culture to all members of the society.
- The State of Kuwait is considered to be among the leading countries in literacy, where the illiteracy rate is 1.5% for males and 8.4% for females and the rate of literacy of the population aged 15 years and over is 93.1%.

II. Communication with the International Education Bureau:

The State of Kuwait is keen on communication and cooperation with the International Education Bureau to benefit from every educational experience. At the same time, the State of Kuwait offers financial support to the international organization as resembled in the donation of 100.000 Swiss Francs to facilitate the implementation of all educational activities including holding the forty-eighth International Conference.

III. Some of the proposed ideas on Inclusive Education:

- Continuous identification of the needs of learners to provide educational opportunities in collaboration with government and private sectors.
- Merging some of the categories of the learners with special needs side by side with their normal peers.
- Emphasizing colleges of education's interpretation of Inclusive Education in preparing teachers to cope and adapt themselves to deal with individual learners.
- Closer cooperation among states on the regional and/or international level to benefit from international expertise and to provide opportunities of education and diversity.