



Saudi Arabia

Prince Dr. Khalid Bin Abdullah Bin Megren Al Saud
Vice Minister of Education for Girls Education



H.H Prince Dr. Khalid A. Al Saud was born in Riyadh in 1956. He is the Vice Minister of Education for Girls' Education since 2005. He obtained his Ph.D in Architecture from the University of Michigan in 1987. He started his professional career as a University lecturer in 1979. Between 1989 and 2001, he served as Vice Dean and Dean of the College of Architecture and Planning. Then, he became the General Supervisor of Administration of Financial Affairs of King Saud University in 1996. Dr. Khalid served as a vice rector of King Saud University from 2001 to 2005. He is Associate Professor of Architecture since 2001. He is the chairman of the executive committee of King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Education Development Project (Tatweer). He is chairman and member of several societies, boards and committees.

From Access to Quality

In response to the international conventions and declarations, and starting off the recommendations of the 1990 Jomtien World Conference on Education For All (EFA) which stated the real departure for the World Conference on EFA, and pursuant to the adherence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the recommendations of Dakar World Education Forum (2000), The kingdom has persisted in achieving equivalent opportunities for education via elaborating and widening the circle of access to education and its universalization through providing giant projects in the field of literacy & adult education, as well as the expansion in special education programs.

These efforts has yielded gross enrolment ratio in primary education amounted to 108.1% and equivalence of enrolment opportunities between boys and girls as girls' ratio amounts to 49.1% in public education and 60% in higher education . These results are the outcome of persistent work and huge financial resources which its gross ratio has amounted to 27% of the total budget of the state .

The Achievement of quantitative success in education in Saudi Arabia relies on enormous economical power, as well as the non-existence of main political, social or economical impediments that weakens the continuation in achieving principles of inclusive education. Moreover, there are no groups marginalized or excluded from education in Saudi Arabia, as education is available free for all citizens and non-Saudi residents in the kingdom. Furthermore, financial aids are disbursed to some learning groups and means of transportation are provided to learners living in the remote regions that have difficult geographical features .

In the light of the great success in quantitative educational aspects, the issues related to access of students to education and achieving the principle of equivalence of opportunities for all, have no longer the matter of question in the educational field in Saudi Arabia, as they are replaced now be debates and discussions related to the quality of education rendered to male and female

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students in the kingdom, especially as interest in quality of education has great effect on achieving goals of inclusive education.

The output of these questioning, inquiries, debates, and dialogues, related to qualitative aspects of education, led to the birth of the project of King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz for General Education Development which is considered one of the greatest and most important qualitative projects aiming at developing education. The total cost of this project is nine billion Saudi Riyals (which is equivalent to US\$ 2,400,000,000) and it endeavors to implement the following four main programs that represent the core of the educational process:

- Re-qualification of teachers;
- Curricula development;
- Improving the educational environment;
- Supporting extracurricular activities.

In conclusion, we are full of hope that this project achieves its prospected goals in the near future, as the coming challenge is represented in answering the question about what students learn and how they learn.