



Syrian Arab Republic

Dr. Ali Saad

Minister of Education



Dr. Prof. Ali Saad obtained his PhD in psychology in 1983. Since 1984 he is professor and teacher at the Faculty of Education, Damascus University and he has been conducted many researches and author of many publications in education and psychology. He speaks Arabic, Spanish, English and Romanian. From 1986 through 1991 he was deputy of dean and from 1996 until 2001 dean of Faculty of Education – Damascus University. From the early 1990s until 2002, Dr. Ali Saad was founder and president of Syrian Society of Psychology, editor of Damascus University Journal of Arts and Human and Educational studies, president of cultural circle at the center of strategic studies - Damascus University and founder and Secretary-general of the Association of Colleges and Institutes of Education in Arab Universities. From 2001 to 2003 he was dean of Faculty of Education of Al-Rustaq and Sohar in Sultanate of Oman. He has been president of human development committee at the cabinet since 2006. From 2003, Dr. Ali Saad is Minister of Education and President of Syrian National Commission for UNESCO.

National Project for Educational Development

National Project on Education Development is applied in Syria under patronage of His Excellency President Bashar Al-Assad, to achieve the quality of education in the field of Education for All. Ministry of Education executed its educational strategies depending on educational projects having priority characteristics as well as limited time programs in order to achieve this purpose:

- The first project is Modernizing the Educational Curricula for General Education according to national standards taking into consideration learners' peculiarities and their participation in the learning process. The Ministry achieved these standards and it continues to prepare school books depending on them through an international competition to compose textbooks for scientific subjects and foreign languages as well as local committees to compose the rest.
- Project of Vocational and Technical Education Curricula depending on the principle of linking vocational and technical education with the needs of the labor market. The Ministry finished setting up the national standards for more than /20/ new careers.
- Project of qualifying teachers currently teaching, to increase their scientific and educational efficiencies to gain a certificate in education (class teacher) within two scholastic years through the Open Learning. Since (2004 – till now) 32000 teachers were qualified.
- Project of qualifying Tutors currently teaching from different specializations in co-operation with the Syrian Virtual University to get the Educational qualifying Diploma through Net Education.
- Project of Private Education which organizes the private Educational Institutions based on quality and nationality of education. Legislative Decree No. (55) dated 2/9/2004 was issued as well as the Executive Instructions organizing it.
- Project of (Kindergardens) addressed to develop and invest childhood through comprehensive education to children before school in Educational Institutions related to the Ministry of Education.
 - During 2006, 2007, 2008, (128) kindergardens related to the Educational Directorates were inaugurated. The Ministry continues building kindergardens upon studied time plan in order to reach an absorption rate of 40% in 2011;
 - On the other hand, The Ministry established Regional Center for qualification and training in co-operation with UNESCO in the field of early childhood (care) development.



- Project of Technology Integration in education by building an integral net as well as technical cadres capable of managing and preparing software in co-operation with Syrian Secretary for development, which shall enable both students and tutors using computer and having access to the educational sites in addition to exchange information and acknowledgments at both international and local level. This year, only /10000/ tutors were trained.
- Project of Satellite Channel (Syrian Educational) aims to produce various educational programs for all levels and teaching Arabic Language for foreign people as well as disseminating cultural programs. It launches its empirical broadcast during the current scholastic year 2008-2009.
- Project of National Center for distinguished students aims to take them into consideration at the secondary level where the educational environment is available enabling typical education and learning, in which special curricula are applied, as well as using new technologies in education and scientific research. Legislative Decree No. /45/ of 2008 was issued in order to establish the center.
- Project of Inclusive Education and Integrate those with special needs: In Syria, they are given the priority by State and political leadership to enable them integrate in both education and society through: Project of integrating them in education; Issuing legislations to take care of and create suitable job opportunities for them, as well as establishing Institutions and centers supervising them according to their handicaps.
- Within the frame work of Integration Project:
 - Establishing a National Committee for Integration in The Ministry of Education in which all the relevant Popular Organizations and Ministries shall participate;
 - Starting the Project in the Ministry of Education in co-operation with UNESCO and UNISEF Organizations as well as Family Society Organizations in preparing /17/ experimental schools and training their Educational Staff;
 - Formulating integration Unit in the Research Directorate to continue the execution process of the project in 2003;
 - Preparing the geometrical code and a special guide for teachers as well as training local groups for using them in the Educational Directorates in 2004;
 - Establishing /10/ sources rooms in experimental schools in 2006;
 - Expanding Integrated Schools to reach /27/ schools in the same year.

Ministry of Education in co-operation with both Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and Amal Institution for handicapped aim to expand the work domain of educational integration and take care of those with special needs as well as varying their activities in the Administration and Education Field. Those handicapped were introduced into teachers competitions for the first time and some of them were assigned in both education and administrative jobs in the Ministry.

These activities done by those with special needs through integrating them in the education or executing sportive and artistic competitions shall have a direct attention from Her Excellency Asma'a Alassad, spouse of President Bashar Alassad, which formulated a society culture about their abilities in participating in society and development process.

Within the framework of "Education for All" and "Inclusive Education", Ministry of Education established a project for teaching children of Bedouins traveling in the desert by establishing internal schools moving with them in forms of caravans and tents.

All these Projects executed according to limited time programs go along with their outcomes about achieving Comprehensive and Inclusive Education which grows and its applied areas expand within the frame work of "Education for All" and its quality in addition to implementing the obligation and free of charge Education. These projects reduced the rates of children (males and females) drop-out to /2.6%/ and increased their rate in joining Basic Education to /99.6%/.