

Educational Development in Bahrain





Bahrain has the oldest public education system in the Arabian Peninsula. The system was established in 1930 when the Bahraini government assumed responsibility for operating two pre-existing primary public schools for boys. Subsequently, separate girls' schools and various universities were established in the 20th century. According to data from the 2010 census, the literacy rate of Bahrain stands at 94.6%. As of 2008, education expenditure accounts for 2.9% of Bahrain's GDP

In the 1986–87 academic year, 88,152 students attended 139 public schools. Education in the public system, which included six-year primary schools, three-year intermediate schools, and three-year secular secondary schools, is free. Students receive supplies, uniforms, meals, and transportation to and from school at no charge. Almost all children in the six- to eleven-year-old age-group attend primary school, and about two-thirds of all twelve- to fourteen-year-olds are enrolled in intermediate schools. However, there was a significant drop-out rate, especially for girls, after the completion of intermediate school. In the 1986–87 academic year, only 41 percent of fifteen- to seventeen-year-olds attended secondary schools.

In the academic year of 2008/2009 the number of public classes in Bahrain (including

religious classes) are 4326, with the number of male students 62381 and female students 63233. with a distribution of 62172 in primary classes, 32327 in preparatory classes (junior high) and 31115 in secondary schools.

In 1927 the first group of Bahrainis to receive a university education enrolled at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. The first institution of higher education in Bahrain, the Gulf Polytechnic, was established in 1968 as the Gulf Technical College. In 1984 Gulf Polytechnic merged with the University College of Art, Science, and Education (UCB), founded in 1979, to create a national university offering bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. During the 1991–92 academic year, more than 4,000 students, half of whom were women, studied at the two campuses of UCB/Polytechnic. In 2008 a new Bahrain Polytechnic opened on the University of Bahrain's old campus location at Isa Town.

Bahrain is moving towards implementing the new education system or the future structure of education in Bahrain, which is more flexible as the student can obtain one of the provided tracks at the secondary level namely Unified Track or Vocational Track. The students that who will select the Unified Track can obtain one of the following division: Science, Literary and Commercial .The students who will select the Vocational Education Track either to obtain Technical stream which is divided into applied or technical vocational or to obtain the apprenticeship program .The new structure will give the all the graduate the opportunity to continue their further study or to join the labor market, specially the technical school graduate as they faced difficulty if the want to obtain higher certificate.