Kindergarten in GCC States

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Abstract

Kindergarten stage is considered highly important for families and children. It is that period of age when the child acquires important skills and behavior for the elementary educational stage. This study concentrates on this important part of the educational system in the GCC. This current study uses the descriptive methodology in dealing with this subject. It shall depend on the official documents statistics.

The study shows that GCC countries do not consider kindergarten stage an important part of the educational system. There is no unified philosophy or programs. With the exception of the UAE 77%, and Kuwait 59%, the enrollment of children in this stage is weak. In some GCC countries, the enrollment per class is higher than that accepted universally. In some classes, the number of students per class is exceeding 45 children. In addition to this, the number of kindergarten is small. An example of such observation is Oman and Saudi Arabia.

The curriculum in the kindergarten is no consistent and is ineffective when it is evaluated. Concentration is seen on some aim while others are ignored. The system concentrates on preparing the children for the second educational stage rather than on teaching them the needed skills.

Kindergartens in GCC countries are lacking many important elements. For example there is a shortage of qualified teachers and only few hold proper university degree. Many kindergartens lack essential equipments. Resources are variable. Such obstacles hinder children capabilities and make kindergarten a place for memorizing songs and listening to stories.

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