تسعون عاماً من التعليم النظامي
مسيرة في صور
When it comes to the history of education in Bahrain and the impressive achievements of the education process from the mere beginning reflected in the establishment of Al-Hedaya Al-Khalifia School in 1919 and all the way through to the application of e-learning under His Majesty King Hamad Future Schools Project since 2005 and finally the implementation of the initiatives of the National Project for Education and Training Development as part of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, the sense of responsibility shouldered by education officials is heightened, as boosted by the fact that the Kingdom of Bahrain has been paying great care, special attention, generous expenditure and dedicated high-caliber Bahraini powers to promote education since the beginning of the 20th century till the end of the first decade of the 21st century. In this commemorative book, published by the Ministry of Education (MOE) in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the outset of education, some of the brightest sides of these achievements, accomplished by the Bahraini Kingdom throughout ninety years of education, are featured. No wonder the national responsibility towards achieving more characteristic feats is further augmented; when our starting point line in those past remarkable successes and achievements, we are required to add to them new outstanding ones that can lead to more educational accomplishments, especially with the support provided by the leadership of our beloved country, May Allah safeguard and protect it.
Modernization through Education

Education in Bahrain was initiated by the Schools of Quran, which were concerned with teaching children Arabic Calligraphy, Arabic language, and most importantly, the Holy Quran. With the onset of the 20th century, in support of the mission to establish private schools throughout Bahrain, the first local school was opened in 1919 through the efforts and cooperation of the people of Muharraq, which was the capital of Bahrain during that time. This event ushered in the real beginning of the education system in Bahrain, which soon paved the way towards the modernization of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The founding of the Al Hedaya School, headed by Mr. Abdullah Dahlan, was a significant step towards this vision. With its opening came the establishment of a charity department for education, with members led by Sheikh Abdullah bin Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Sheikh Ibrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Abdul Wahab bin Haji Ziani, Mohamed Salah bin Youssef Khonji, Yousef bin Abdulrahman Fakhro, Abdul Aziz bin Hassan Al Gosaibi and Mohammed bin Al-Sabah Al bin Ali, among others.

Modernization through Education

 вход в школу

Students and teachers in Al Hedaya Al Khalifia School, 1925

Teachers and students from the 6th grade level in Al Hedaya Al Khalifia School; 1940s

دخول الحداثة

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The facade of the Al Hedaya Al Khalifia School, past and present.
The Mubarakiyah Al Olyaa' Al Kames School building in its early years and at present
Mubarakiyah Al Olyaa School / 1926

The Mubarakiyah Al Olyaa School, established in 1926 at the Al Kames Market, is the second regular school to be opened in Bahrain, next to Hedaya Al Khalifia. It started out with 16 students over two grades levels. Abdul Karim bin Abdul Hussein Al-Juma was the school's first Director. After that the school was renamed Al Kames Primary School for boys.

Al Kames (Al Mubarakiyah Al Olyaa School), the second school in Bahrain
The Khadija Alkobraa School building during the year of its founding in 1928; and at present.
Al Gafria School building "Abu Bakr Al Sedek", past and present
Different Stages & Types of Education

Kindergarten
Basic Education
Secondary Education
Technical and Vocational Education
Higher Education
Religion Education
Private Education
Education for Special Children
Education for Senior Citizens
Girls’ Education

رياض الأطفال
التعليم الأساسي
التعليم الثانوي
التعليم الصناعي والمهني
التعليم العالي
التعليم الحقيقي
التعليم الخاص
التعليم الخاصة
محو الأمية
تعليم البنات
Kindergarten schools started to spread on a limited scale in Bahrain in the 1960s. However, they received more attention in the 1970s, immediately after the independence. Starting 1985 formal governmental directions focused on caring for and supporting preschool education and encouraging private investment in this vital sector. Today, there are about 148 kindergartens in Bahrain. Preschool education is divided into nursery schools, for children up to three years of age, and kindergartens, for three to six year old children. It is administered by the private sector under the supervision of the MOE, specifically by the Directorate of Kindergartens, which is established in 2006 as part of the organizational structure of the MOE.

The Kindergarten Department of the Ministry supervises all the affairs of kindergartens owned by the private sector.

رياض الأطفال

Kindergarten schools started to spread on a limited scale in Bahrain in the 1960s. However, they received more attention in the 1970s, immediately after the independence. Starting 1985 formal governmental directions focused on caring for and supporting preschool education and encouraging private investment in this vital sector. Today, there are about 148 kindergartens in Bahrain. Preschool education is divided into nursery schools, for children up to three years of age, and kindergartens, for three to six year old children. It is administered by the private sector under the supervision of the MOE, specifically by the Directorate of Kindergartens, which is established in 2006 as part of the organizational structure of the MOE.
Basic education includes Primary and Intermediate stages. Notwithstanding the development of names and dates, the Primary stage, which is the initial, dates back to the establishment of Al Hidaya School in Muharraq in 1919. It is followed later by other similar schools such as Al Hidaya and Al Rifaa Al Sharqi schools, both called Al Hidaya at first. Then Al Hidaya and Al Hidaya school for girls was established followed by schools of Al Al-Akhdar, Al Noor, Al Al-Akhdar, Al Hidaya, etc.

The beginning of formal education, the start of Primary and Basic school education.

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As the number of primary school students exceeded 14,000 boys and girls, primary education developed further until it began to assume a settled shape during the 1940s and 50s. In the beginning, the first four years of formal education was preceded by two pre-elementary years. However, in 1960 both stages were merged and primary stage now consisted of six years.

In the 1970s, primary education was comprehensively developed and its methods, curricula and teachers received increased attention. Then in 1982 the class teacher system was introduced in the first three primary years and actually applied in the academic year 1983-1984. In addition, the University of Bahrain originated a new bachelor program in the class teacher system aimed at preparing teachers qualified for that purpose.

An assessment system was also specially originated for this stage of education and implemented in the academic year 1995-1996 in schools applying the class teacher system. It was then followed by several development projects.

Today, according to academic year 2009-2010 statistics, the number of primary students in public schools is 6,266 and primary education is under an all-embracing qualitative development process. Intermediate education, on another hand, officially became a part of formal education in 1962. The intermediate education was part of the secondary education, which was then divided into two stages: an intermediate stage for two years, and secondary stage for three...
In 1975, a decision was taken to extend the duration of the intermediate stage to three years and applied in the academic year 1977-1978 in all public schools. That was accompanied by changes in curricula, assessment methods and examinations. At the beginning of the academic year 1980, a national unified examination was prepared for the final year of intermediate stage. Since then, the intermediate stage has been under a comprehensive development process pretty much as other educational stages do. The number of intermediate students reached 32,177 in the academic year 2009-2010.

UNESCO Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2010 commended Bahrain as the only Arab country to achieve the EFA goals. For example, basic education has achieved a 100% enrollment rate.

Students during a class from one of the primary schools in the 80s

Primary school students at the Al Hedaya Al Khalifia School; 1926

Students from a basic education school in the 30s

Al Budaiya Primary School students during the early days

Students during a class from one of the primary schools in the 80s