



"Education is one of the greatest gift for mankind. Each one of us must seek this enlightenment."  
 – Lailah Gifty Akita, Beautiful Quotes

# CAMPUS

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## CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN K12 AND HIGHER EDUCATION



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**W**hat am I talking about? This is part of a research paper that I am working on. I feel that our children deserve better schooling to be able to compete with their western counterparts.

**From my research, I found that there is a gap in our education, the real question is why do we have a gap in our education and what are these gaps:**

- Tertiary learning skills
- Language skills
- Math, science and languages top up.
- Lack of research abilities,
- Lack of communication skills,
- Lack of writing skills,
- Low participation in the community,

- No volunteering abilities and if wanted then the community doesn't offer it, no trips abroad to fulfill educational skills,

- No special involvement in the community and no hope for those that get grades below than required
- Most importantly our kids have no idea what to study when they get into university.

- Some universities want SAT scores which our kids do not secure or if done, their grades are lower than required.

- Also we mustn't forget that 80% of our kids study in public schools where lower than needed English skills are attained, so getting a high score in TOEFL or IELTS is not something that they can brag about.

- Taking all this into consideration it becomes explicitly clear that these kids have to go to a small and nurturing place that will build the previously mentioned traits to enable them to go to university while possessing the pre-requisites that will

make them succeed.

### What is happening because of the Gap

- Students lose a year to do English language
- Students lose a further year to do university preparation
- USA/Canada system is a little bit different but still students require English language and SAT preparation.

On the other hand Expenditure on Education in The GCC is increasing:

- The GCC states continue to show high interest in education.
- The GCC states spend relatively high amounts on education, usually 4-5% of their GDPs, on average approximately 20 per cent of public spending goes to education.
- The GCC is expected to experience a recurring spend of \$150 billion in its education sector over the next few years.
- Educational demands continue to grow in the GCC and would play an

integral role in the economy.

- With \$150 billion spent on education, why are our students lacking the basics?

- What are we teaching them?
- What are we investing on?

### Are the students the problem?

- Or, maybe our students are not motivated enough to attain the skills required by universities and work?
- Or are they not made to understand the repercussions of not doing well at schools?
- Are the parents not doing their job?
- What is the real problem?

### How about our teachers?

- Do we train teachers on the best methodologies needed for the 21st century?
- Who goes for teachers college? Research shows that only those who are not accepted in medicine or engineering opt for teaching.

- Do we re-train annually so the teachers learn new inventions/ methodologies in teaching?

### What is the government doing?

- Is there enough monitoring in schools?
- Is public- private partnership imposed in schools?
- Why public schools lack in language and STEM.
- The most pestering question is where is the funding going?

### Let's go back to basics and see what is needed

- Many studies have been focusing on the 21st century requirements
- These requirements are basically based on problems faced by most of the countries around the world.
- 21st century Skills are categorized as foundational literacy, competencies and character qualities.

( To continue on Sunday)

## Places for Students' Summer Escapade!



**Ali Al-Aradi**  
 HRD Lecturer

**T**he summer break is a good opportunity to know more about Kingdom of Bahrain, you can do various educational visits to enjoy the site and in the same time learn some new things. Given below are some places you may like to visit this summer:

**Bahrain National Museum:** Since it opened its doors in 1988, this modern structure has been a showcase of 6000 years of civilisation on this tiny Arabian Gulf Island. Much of the museum is dominated by the ancient Dilmun civilisation which had ties with Mesopotamia. The rest of the museum focuses on Bahrain since the arrival of Islam and until the discovery of oil. Although many of the items on display in the museum are quite intriguing and admirable, the section on local Bahraini culture completely freaked me

out. This was mainly due to the funny-looking human figures used in the displays.

The National Museum is a very well laid out and thoughtful look at the history of Bahrain from the time of Dilmun up to the present day. I spent about 3 hours there going from exhibit to exhibit. It has a fascinating display showing reassembled burial mounds from the A'ali burial mound complex. You get a lot more out of seeing their version than by traipsing around in the burial mound areas.

**Beit Al-Quran Museum:** A rather elegant museum, Beit Al-Quran was recently built in the traditional Bahraini religious architecture to house an amazing and extremely rare collection of ancient Qurans (Islam's holy book) dating as far back as the



7th century AD. Throughout Islamic history, Qurans became

a form of artistic expression with beautiful calligraphy

and colourful drawings. The museum is very nicely laid

big Islamic library. ( To continue on Sunday)

out and takes the visitor through the development of the Quran, its art, and Arabic calligraphy over time and across the various dominant Islamic empires. The museum is somewhat small and can be seen in less than an hour, but it is very educational and well worth a visit.

**The Grand Mosque:** Officially called Al-Fateh Mosque, the Grand Mosque of Bahrain is the largest on the island. It is a modern (1990s) construction in a traditional Islamic style. The mosque is open to non-Muslims, but not during prayer time. It is Bahrain's largest religious building; a local guide explained the dome on top as the world's largest fibreglass dome. This mosque can accommodate 7000 worshippers at a time. The side buildings house the Religious Institute for Islamic Affairs, and an Islamic high school; and