

Ebdaa Bank to spread the culture of microfinance

Manama

Ebdaa Bank for Microfinance in Bahrain launched a series of practical steps aimed to spreading the culture of microfinance in the Gulf and the Arab world, in order to encourage more people with limited incomes to launch their own projects and increase their contribution to the development of the national economy and diversification. Especially in light of the challenges caused by low oil prices and declining growth rates.

Chief Executive Officer of Al Ebdaa Bank, Dr. Khalid Al-Gazawi, said that the Bank is launching a series of initiatives in cooperation with a number of banking, academic and civil society partners.

"This will contribute to the promotion of best practices and success stories in the field of microfinance projects. This project carries great benefits in terms of growth and expansion, generating employment, reducing the import bill and supporting sustainable development plans," he said.

Dr. Al-Gazawi pointed



Ebdaa Bank CEO, Dr. Khalid Al-Gazawi receiving ODB delegation

out that the Ebdaa Bank - Bahrain, by the direction of the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), held meeting with the officials of the Arab Open University in Beirut and discussed aspects of mutual cooperation in the interest of enhancing the academic level of the Bank's staff in Bahrain and to provide practical training for university students and graduates.

The CEO said the meeting discussed the possibility of introducing the employees of

Ebdaa Bank Bahrain into the distance education programs provided by the university in order to obtain a diploma in microfinance.

He added that Ebda Bank-Bahrain will support the Arab Open University in Beirut to develop its curriculum and add practical case studies.

The Bank will also register the university's curriculum in video and video formats on YouTube to be available to those wishing to master the basics and skills of microfinance

through learning. Remotely.

Dr. Al-Ghazawi expressed his confidence that this cooperation with the Arab Open University in Beirut will serve as a model for investing in modern technologies for distance communication in motivating young people in the Arab Gulf and the region to move to self-employment after providing them with the skills they need and introducing them to the best applications in the field of microfinance And entrepreneurship.

Aster Clinic holds Diet Exhibition for Diabetics



Dr. Mariam Al Hajeri inaugurating the exhibition.

Manama

To commemorate the World Diabetes Day which was on November 14, 2017, Aster Clinic organized Diet Exhibition for Diabetics at Gudaibiya branch yesterday

Dr. Mariam Al Hajeri, Vice President, Bahrain Diabetes Society who also holds the portfolio of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health, Ministry of Health, inaugurated the exhibition. She said this year the focus is on Women and Diabetes. According to her 1 out of 6 to 7 pregnant woman suffers from Diabetes.

She said, "The Ministry of Health is rolling out a lot of program to tackle the issue of Diabetes in Women and also obesity in children as this is a risk factor for Diabetes."

Dr. Al Hajeri recalled, that as per the last available data 23% of male school children 24% of female school children in Bahrain are obese. These problems have to be tackled immediately to arrest the increasing load of diabetes.

Dr. Sunil Rathi, Specialist Internal Medicine said that

Medicines, Diet and Exercise have important role to play in managing diabetes. Only medicines can help to manage the disease up to 65 per cent.

The Gynaecologists of Aster Clinics, Dr. Rajeswari and Dr. Nazma mentioned about the Gestational Diabetes screening for pregnant women which is being done in Aster Clinics. Dr. Manoj Shrivastava, Ophthalmologist conducted a free eye check up for diabetes patients so that any damage to vision, due to diabetes, can be arrested.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Al Hajeri, said that private healthcare establishments like Aster should come up more and more in these kind of initiatives and work jointly with Bahrain Diabetes Society so that together everyone can help control Diabetes in Bahrain.

She also thanked the community members and staff of Aster who prepared the menu for the diet exhibition.

The next Diet Exhibition for Diabetes is scheduled on November 25, 2017 at 10am in Aster Clinic in Sanad, Riffa.

Google Glass returns from the dead as tool to help kids with autism

Those who declared Google Glass a failure perhaps spoke too soon as it is now resurfacing as a tool to help children with autism improve their social skills.

"Empower Me" for autism

A company has developed a system for autism that runs on Google Glass, including the newly released Glass Enterprise Edition. Brain Power, the developer of neuroscience-based augmented reality, launched the "Empower Me" system earlier this month.

For teaching purposes

The Empower Me system is a digital coach that runs on smart-glasses, to empower children and adults with autism to teach themselves social and cognitive skills.



Heads-up, hands-free

The company said that it is using the Google Glass as a platform because tablets or phones require looking down. But the wearable platforms help people keep heads-up and hands-free during social interactions.

Aiding emotional understanding

Autism spectrum disorder is characterised by impaired social interaction, communication and sensory sensitivities. The system features a suite of apps. One such app, Emotion Charades, teaches the user to identify emotions, and understand them.

How it works

Users look through the private screen on their smartglasses and see emojis on either side of their partner's face. They select which one they think matches the facial expression with a spoken command or a subtle head tilt. A software detects emotions and voice commands using Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the head tilt via accelerometer data.

Helps to focus

Besides aiding emotional understanding, Empower Me also features apps designed to target attention to social cues, including the ability to focus on face and eye regions when it is desirable to do so.

"Empowering people is my passion. Technology is often blamed for pulling people apart, but my goal was to use technology, and science, to bring people even closer than they ever might have been, and to unlock the immense power of their unique brains,"

-Ned Sahin, Brain Power CEO,