

# Call to explore technologies to tackle fake degree crisis

Technology could be the answer to prevent fraud in the education sector, says expert

● The Kingdom has launched a large-scale investigation into fake degrees after a massive scam hit the country regarding professional hiring and promotions.

● Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has ordered the Higher Educational Council and its academic accreditation committees to verify the information on certificates awarded by fake or unrecognised universities outside the Kingdom.

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Upgrading the existing technologies utilised in the education sector would solve the fake degree crisis that has engulfed Bahrain while preventing similar scandals in the future, it was proposed.

Technology could be the answer to prevent fraud in the education sector; however, this would need the educational authority as well as the colleges and universities making use of the blockchain technology, said Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH) blockchain committee Head Fawaz Shakrallah.

He told Tribune that the certain advantages offered by the technology allows for verifying authenticity, to protect against corruption as well in bringing down the costs.

"The biggest problem we faced with educational qualification is the certificates, that we get fake PhD certificates from fake univer-

sities and master's certificates that are fake as well. With blockchain, the university will issue the certificate and issue transactions on the blockchain network.

"That way it is authenticated, anybody can go on the system and check and confirm that this is actually original and authenticated by and issued by a respected university so it avoids fraud and counterfeit and malicious attackers and hackers."

"When issuing an educational certificate there would be a transaction stamp on the certificate to confirm that this is original, anyone can go and scan it and open the universities original app on the mobile and it will tell them that this certificate is original.

"On the other hand if you need to check if the university is fake or not, the Ministry of Education and the educational authorities would need to be involved. For example if a new university opens up, they have to register their information with the Ministry of Education,



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MR SHAKRALLAH

and the ministry would have to tell them that they need to put their records on a blockchain to confirm that this is authentic and clear and the university has to go and submit their documents on the application which the ministry of education has.

"This way you can confirm if it is original and approved by the ministry of education. If the min-

istry approves a fake university then that is a different problem," he said.

He said that this is much better than the current system. "This is better than the Ministry of Education using the current technology because in the current system there are chances for corruption activities, for example if a department head is corrupt or he knows

he can actually approve fake universities and stamp them, he may be able to do it.

"But they can actually protect against this using blockchain by telling the departments to make sure new universities being created must submit their documents on a blockchain application, this way those people who are corrupted don't have a chance."

Bahrain has launched a large-scale investigation into fake degrees after a massive scam hit the country regarding professional hiring and promotions.

Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa has ordered the Higher Educational Council and its academic accreditation committees to verify the information on certificates awarded by fake or unrecognised universities outside Bahrain.

The committee will investigate false or forged certificates owned by private and public sector employees.

## Imam Hussain Blood Donation Drive 'a big success'



Hundreds of donors made the event a big success.



Many healthcare professionals volunteered for the event.

TDT | Manama

Hundreds of people donated blood during the past two days in what was termed the largest blood donation drive in the Kingdom.

Imam Hussain Campaign for Blood Donation, the largest blood donation drive in Bahrain was held in the past two days in Manama.

Blood was collected from hundreds of people, which will be stored at the blood bank.

Women donated blood at the camp



**People from all over Bahrain participated in this event. This was not only for Bahrainis, many expatriates have also come and donated blood.**

MR AL SEKRI

from 4pm to 9pm on the first day and men donated on the second day from 1pm to 11pm. Naim Charity Society collaborated with the Ministry of Health to organise the event. Bahrain Society of Sickle Cell Anaemia Patient Care also participated in the event.

The organising committee Vice President Ahmed Al Sekri told Tribune that the drive, which is in its 20th edition, has been a major success.

"Thousands of people have expressed interest in donating blood, but we had to limit the number. But still hundreds of people have turned up. Around 235 of those who attended were women. The first day of the event was dedicated to women so that they have a comfortable environment. The second day is dedicated to men."

"People from all over Bahrain participated in this event; people come from various villages, cities and governorates. This is not only for Bahrainis, many expatriates have also come and donated

blood. People from churches also participated in the camp."

"The whole camp is being held in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Salmaniya Medical Center, so all the units goes back to Salmaniya Medical Centre."

Making online appointments was also possible, although online booking was limited to just 200 people. Organisers said that the online quota filled up within minutes. Over 200 people, including healthcare workers, volunteered to

**235**

women donated blood as part of the Imam Hussain Campaign for Blood Donation.

organise the event and 20 beds were arranged.

Imam Hussain Campaign for Blood Donation is one of the oldest and most well-known blood donation drives to be held in Bahrain. The drive has consistently seen a high turnout since its inception.



A donor poses for a photo

## Woman earns court order to rejoin husband

TDT | Manama  
Ali Tarif

The Court of Urgent Matters ruled in favour of a Bahraini woman who wanted to rejoin her husband.

According to court details, the woman left her husband a few months ago and since then she had been staying with her father.

"Although she expected her husband to reconcile with her, it did not happen despite staying at father's home for a few months. The husband did not make any attempts to bring her back to his house," sources say.



**Although she expected her husband to reconcile with her, it did not happen despite staying at father's home for a few months. The husband did not make any attempts to bring her back to his house.**

SOURCES

It is learnt that the woman made many attempts to rejoin her husband but the man blocked all of them.

She also sought help from the police before taking the matter to the Court of Urgent Matters, sources added.

The judges at the Court of Urgent Matters who heard the petition ruled in the woman's favour, directing the husband to allow her back at his home apart from fulfilling her other demands.