



Challenges faced by women in the Middle East studying for careers in engineering and information technology

Evaluation of the social, cultural, gender and health challenges faced by young women studying for careers in Engineering and Information Technology at the higher education institutions in the Arabian Gulf States and recommendations that could help the students, families, community, institutions, industry and government to help these women face these challenges.

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INTRODUCTION:

This research is based on personal experience of teaching young women at various Educational institutions in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar and those of many others. A survey was made based on personal experience of various faculty and professors of women attending engineering colleges and others to assess social, cultural, health and gender issues faced by them. Other data gathered from similar research on the topic has also been used to consolidate findings.

AIM:

To evaluate the challenges faced by Women students in Engineering and IT in the Gulf and recommend solutions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

A prospective study was conducted in CNAQ over a 2-month months period in which a total of 20 Engineering/IT Faculty were interviewed to collect data.

Each of the faculty/instructor/professor was asked questions and responses evaluated on their respective experiences to discover any common trends and get their suggestions and recommendations to help the community counter challenges

RESULTS:

Research is underway

CONCLUSIONS:

According to the results of this study, almost half of the women faced many issues that could be solved by the family, community and society, recommendation have been made based on findings that could help the stakeholders.

KEYWORDS:

Female, Women, Engineering, Gulf States, Social and Gender Challenges

BIOGRAPHY:

Khalid Ansari has completed his MSc in Information Technology from the University of Liverpool in UK at the age of 53. His final thesis was based on the challenges faced by Children with Asperger's Syndrome and how to help them by developing a web site to help them. At the age of 25 he graduated in Chemical Engineering from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. He is an Instructor of Telecommunications Engineering at the College of North Atlantic since 2012. From 2003 to 2012 he was Faculty of Information Technology at Dubai Women's college in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. While at DWC Khalid organized Annual Women in IT conferences that was attended by many institutions from the region and inaugural address by the Minister of Education of UAE, Sheikh Sultan al e Nahyan. He also took a group of IT Women students to Huawei Corporation in Shenzhen, China in order to learn future IT and Network Technology Research China was making in 2010. Before joining DWC he was teaching at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto, Canada.

He also taught at various other institutions in Greater Toronto Area from 1997 to 2000, including Ryerson University, Toronto, Mohawk College, Hamilton Ontario.

Khalid Ansari is also a Volunteer Chaperon for Reach Out to Asia Program with trips to Indonesia and China. ROTA arranges trips for students from CNAQ and other educational institutions in Qatar to various countries in Asia. ROTA provides high quality and relevant primary and secondary education, encouraging relationships among communities, creating safe learning environments and restoring education in crisis affected areas across Asia and around the world. Students help out as volunteers under the guidance of Chaperons from CNAQ and ROTA.

Khalid Ansari is also an honorary Citizen of Green Peace Chile, and an environmental activist

