

Are They Making A Difference ?

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Abstract

The focus of this study is about how UAE women could manage to achieve education and occupy leading positions. I started my research looking at early times when unity era commenced and females were able to enroll in schools by support from their families and government. This start was the way for the other generations of girls to continue in higher education and make the difference.

The introductory chapter about the history of education in the UAE, shows how females were allowed to get education since the period of “Mutawwa”. At that time, Islamic regulations and teachings that grants females their rights were obeyed, so older females used to teach the smaller ones the Quran in parallel with male “Mutawa” who taught boys. Later periods, show how education was still an important issue and how supporting this virtue made the country become vastly advanced. The idea of investing in the largest number of population formed of females and granting them higher education allowed the UAE step to the future with a dependent national workforce.

Each of the ten case studies in this paper, presented the facts of how UAE women become successful through ten selective personalities talking about their lives in their own words. Case studies were always a reliable way to explore facts and lives. As UAE is known to be a conservative community that may not allow others to seek internal information, but through this study and interviews, others may learn that the UAE advancement is made by such people who know what can their experiences support and how can talking about their past enhance females achievements. These case studies also support focusing on the importance of education to make the difference.

In these case studies readers will find out how women’s success could happen by granting them education with liberal thinking and the help of different relations around

them .It can happen if women were also eager to bear any difficult surrounding circumstances and one of them is risking being left alone without

The concluding chapter of my study , discusses main and minor variables that enhanced females success . They also focused on how females used equity granted to them in the constitution to seek higher education and look at future as their aim for success and leading positions , although this prevented them from many important social rights .

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and he recognized the importance of my study that was the first of its kind in the UAE.

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Introduction

The steady growth of UAE women in social role, economical, and educational fields and also in employment is attracting attention inside and outside the region . This steady growth is part of a huge civilized project aimed towards supporting women to succeed for a brighter future for them and for the country .An Illustration by Scott Chambers¹ mentioned that “ Emirati women are at the forefront of change and progress in the region. In nearly every field including business, education, the arts and medicine .Women are taking on important roles and becoming decision-makers.” He continued by saying that “ They are running companies, raising money for charities, fighting for abused women and promoting the arts. There are now five women appointed to the Cabinet. Abu Dhabi recently got its first ever female judge and two female prosecutors. Most are also full-time mothers, fulfilling their roles in a traditional Muslim society” . This illustration can shed a light on what’s happening in the country and how women are becoming leaders In everywhere in the UAE.

According to an article published on Sheikh Mohammed’s website (May 2008) , it mentions that:

“women have been a vital part of UAE society even before the discovery of oil and they were responsible for all family needs while men were away for pearl diving. This trip used to last for more than four to six months and women were responsible in men’s roles beside their own roles as women. women were always looked as respected in the society for their ability to work in men’s places and because the Quran and the Islamic Religion requires it. The role of women in the UAE has grown in line with the country's development. The Supreme Council members have been committed to improving women’s lives since the beginning of the Federation. As the late President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan said, "Nothing could delight me more than to see the woman taking up her distinctive position in society ... Nothing should hinder her

¹ <http://www.thenational.ae/article/20080420/ONLINESPECIAL/992306773>

progress ... Like men, women deserve the right to occupy high positions according to their capabilities and qualifications."²

This article and others show that women's progress didn't happen from nothing and it didn't stand without support. According to Aisha Balkhair, supervisor of career services at Dubai Women's College in her article published on www.aacu.org she said that

"Women's education has evolved substantially since the discovery of oil in the Gulf region and the subsequent formation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from seven Gulf states in 1971. After that date, influential social trends and key political decisions have enabled women to participate in and contribute to society "³

Aisha Balkhair continued to describe the education in the UAE during different Era's such as Colonial ,

"Beginning in the 1930s, girls obtained education by attending Koranic schools to learn how to read the holy book and write Arabic. These basic literacy schools were co-educational, led by teachers who might be either male or female. In contrast, older girls and boys attended gender-segregated schools, and by the time they were teenagers, girls were expected to leave the educational system."⁴

Aisha Balkhair continued saying :2

"After the British finally withdrew from the Gulf region, the seven Gulf states united under the name of Unites Arab Emirates in 1971. The UAE's new constitution granted women equal access to education and the right to work and practice in all professions. Women now had access to formal primary and

<http://www.sheikhmohammed.co.ae/vgn-ext-templating/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=7d3c4c8631cb4110VgnVCM100000b0140a0aRCRD> ²

³ http://www.aacu.org/OCWW/volume36_3/global.cfm

⁴ Opcit

secondary educational systems that exposed them to a wide range of subjects, such as literature, science, and foreign languages (including English and French)⁵.

According to Aisha and many others, women's support and advancement in the UAE was made by political decisions and then it started to flow by the first female and family who insisted to study and continue in the path that wasn't paved for females, and in my opinion the first female and the family who backed her were the core of women success in the UAE and they were the main variable that lead the UAE to become an advanced leading country in human rights and females support. This future that was built by very brilliant thoughts is the umbrella for all of UAE females today and tomorrow. This success has been brought about through the creative vision of leaders and an ideal strategy that was able in a very short time to elevate women's roles in the national society and thrust their ambitions to the top. The UAE is now on an equal footing with many advanced countries. Increased responsibilities in the direction of success for themselves and their society are considered as one step in the growth of the UAE.

The UAE government has supported females and they have been given opportunities to prove their abilities in different aspects of life. Equity with males was given to females as one of the rules in the constitution in order to make equity as fundamental right instead of letting it swing between ideas and opinions.

The Late His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan A Nahyan was behind establishing the fundamentals of equity and encouragement for women's success. He also supported his wife, Her Highness Sheikha Fatema Bent Mubarak in carrying out the mission of supporting women and opening the gates of self confidence for them. This support has enabled UAE women to fulfill their dreams and allowed them to become fulfilled. They were given the greatest chance to prove that women complete the circle in the society and they are an integral part of it.

Women's success has confirmed the wisdom of the leaders and their strategy in granting females their rights to enjoy a full share in the society with males. The

⁵ Op. Cit.

increasing number of females in higher education, workforce and in various leading occupations was enhanced through constitutional balanced laws.

Why this topic?

This subject has been my project for the last two years. I intend to say that women are granted their opportunities to succeed and prove their abilities in good and leading positions depending on the efforts of a first female who took the lead in the beginning and dig for what is happening today for the new generations of females . That female, who cannot be ignored, nor defined , was the reason and the cause for the great opportunities and chances given for females to succeed. I want to say that we are enjoying the fruits of the tree that was planted by a bold and adventurous female who took the lead and knew that education will be everything.

I started with a TV program for *Sama Dubai TV*. The first purpose in doing such a subject was the lack of media focus on UAE females and their successes that should be documented especially for being a long way success that changed and turned the future of women in the UAE upside down. These stories of success are not publicized in a proper way in the Arab world in general and in the Gulf countries in private. Until today it is not out of the ordinary to hear from others in foreign countries who think that Arab women and especially Gulf women are falling behind because they are not allowed to progress nor are they allowed to occupy leading positions. As women are increasingly advancing in many places and professions, there is a pressing need to announce this progress that unfortunately has been ignored. Since many people had not recognized these success stories the situation of women became ambiguous for others in foreign countries.

In this television program I interviewed many successful women who talked about their beginnings and how their families living, surrounding circumstances, society traditions were and how they were able to obtain education or allowed to continue their higher studies by their families.

I also filmed them at their homes and in their work places to focus on their real life that may be sometimes the reason of their success. Unfortunately five of the given case studies were not interested in appearing through media, and this was a personal choice that made me depend on press interviews only but they also talked transparently about their family and childhood and I could abstract from this how supportive these families were and this helped a lot to make female's future successful in the UAE . It appeared in many cases of the guest interviewed that success was mainly supported by their families, government and others while knowing that about 90% of their parents were not educated or their education didn't reach to university level this would allow us to understand how educating females in such environment and society is considered as a very critical issue and the UAE has stepped forward with the best wisdom and political decisions made to win the largest number of educated females in the area. .

From a paper written by Beilenburg and Al Khanbashi⁶ we see they find that the UAEU Fall 2004 intake by gender.

62% of those seeking higher education in the 2004-2005 academic year are female.

When Beilenburg and Al Khanbashi presented the UAEU students with the question, "What type of school did your father attend," 1471 students (52%) indicated public schools, 812 (29%) indicated no school, 408 (14%) stated that their fathers had attended matawa schools (informal educational classes) , and 53 (2%) indicated that their fathers attended a private school. Eighty-five students (3%) chose not to answer this question. Responses to the same question regarding their mothers' education indicate that mothers are slightly less likely to have attended school, with 1116 (39%) of respondents indicating that their mothers attended no school. Twenty-eight more students chose not to answer this question concerning their mothers but they answered

⁶ Bielenberg , B., and Dr. Abdullah Al Khanbashi , "UAE about some characteristics of entering UAE University ,they present in their paper some findings about the variety of backgrounds from which students come from. Al Ain University , available at (http://sra.uaeu.ac.ae/Conference_6/Proceedings/PDF/UGRU/UGRU_3.pdf -May 2008)

that concerning their fathers⁷. Its interesting to note that all of the interviewed females in this study declared that their families lead their ways towards education and without the families they mostly would fall behind and not accomplish their success even though being smart and having good IQ average.

Recent data from UNESCO.s Education for All Global Monitoring Report indicate that the UAE is one of only 15 countries where girls outnumber boys in the formal education system. The UAE is also one of only two Gulf States where the education balance is tipped in favour of girls [6].

I did not limit my program requirements to one type of success granted by women nor one kind of work but I tried my best to include as many females as I could from different professions, ideas and field of success. In the scenario of this program I divided females lives into four parts: a) Family and childhood: b) Education and University:, c)work and, d) future ambitions . Each guest talked about her history, family, education and many other issues that relate to her success. From this program the idea of writing about this success grew and the best opportunity that came to me was to include these case studies in my dissertation and point at the nature of female success in the UAE.

Secondly, as the UAE lacks documentation about this subject and there is no database that can give real statistics about the actual success of women in the country and who was the leading female to bring to the UAE the light of education, I wasn't able to provide and reviews or literature about this topic but all what I could do is trying to use the available materials and interviews in order to form this paper and in the same time make it as a base for future researches and studies.

It is an urgent need that we start documenting the achievements done nowadays by successful persons in the UAE in order to build the database and encourage many other researchers to investigate such subjects. In such studies, we are planning for the next generation and offering them the best ideal models that they may follow. Throughout more than fifty female interviews, I could judge that women are really

⁷ Op. cit.

granted their rights in the UAE, and they are getting the best education and assuming lead positions in work. These opportunities were actually utilized by females and they were able to keep in line with success by creating and implementing innovative ideas in their work. They didn't lean on any other support to improve their personal abilities and increase their eagerness to explore more fields of success.

This study resembles my feelings towards my country: successful strategy and wise planning for future. Through this program and dissertation I attempt to throw light on the huge progress in feminine success in the UAE, and to allow many others to monitor the successful investment in female's abilities and efforts to make the society more balanced and inspire other females to aim towards credentials in education and high positions.

This study anticipates planting a core for a national library that is concerned with national products and the documentation of antecedent issues that were not previously encouraged in a Gulf traditional society. It is also preparing the way for many other studies that concerned with females studies, their issues in the society and how are they progressing in what is normally a male dominated society.

Research Questions

When looking at women and the continuous success they are making in the UAE , we look around them and try to understand what type of environment they are living in that could be grant them power and ability to succeed ? What are their similar social characteristics that helped them to succeed ? Who stand behind this success and what kind of support they were given in order to reach this stage? What is the effect of social variables on their success? Besides knowing that they were working very hard and trying to utilize the given opportunities there are also many social variables that could be seen to be more helping them to reach this stage while some others must be hindering and stopping others from developing or progressing and gaining success .

Methodology

Participants in my dissertation are an elite of UAE leading females who were able to grant higher education and occupy leading positions at a time when this was not a very familiar procedure for females . In their times education was equally granted for both genders but they were among the leading group of females who didn't stop nor let any of the society obstacle hinder them from their ambitions.

I chose to use interviews that had already been carried out with these females as the main instrument because these interviews could help me to translate their opinions and to explain more about how did their lives run and who were involved in their success. These interviews were the best way and maybe the only possible instrument considering the selected females busy lives, and keeping in mind that they had already talked about their lives and these interviews are the easiest way to write about them and to get the facts from them without forgetting any thing . Research about females in the Arab world is still rare and not much welcomed. Many people would refuse to be exposed to any questioning for such research for many hidden reasons such as that of worries or objections from their families. The case studies given in my research were

taken from real interviews that were conducted with the participants themselves and all data and information were taken directly from their own stories. I believe that they were the best tool because they talked about their childhood and they were expressing their real and natural feelings without trying to pretend any different feelings in front of researching questions.

I used Television and newspapers interviews that already existed and can be referenced for my dissertation in order to assure the facts and reality of the cases studies . These interviews are also a very good reference for any future researchers who would like to explore more data or research for more information about successful females.

The interviews were all in Arabic, but I translated them into English in order to include them in my dissertation. It was not an easy job to go through every word and to translate every word told by each participant, but in total, I tried my best to include the most needed data in this dissertation . The original interviews were done to show how could such females manage their ways through a dominant world by males and they become leaders by their willing and hard work to reach leading positions.

I tried to divide the data into four groups in order to analyze the flow of their lives by starting from family and childhood, education , university and work and then future. This flow could show how their lives were moving and how the original foundation reflected by granting education and equal opportunities along with their families understanding their rights to get education and to reach their success that allowed them prove their abilities in making a difference.

By analyzing the content of the cases studies, it was clear to me that education played a very important role in these women's life , as without granting education , they wouldn't be able to face the society and convince the others by their abilities to be leaders. Their intelligence wouldn't be enough to give them such opportunities without being educated , and this was the basic wisdom that made the UAE rulers focus on equity in education given for both males and females in the constitution.

By selecting ten guests from the fifty I had interviewed on the television program and other press interviews ,I tried my best to allow more variety and personal statuses in this selection in order to make the study more coherence and able to shed a light on different statuses . I transcribed the interviews and translated them into English. The scenario for writing each case study followed four phases.

- Family and Childhood: Talking about the family support , who was a very important support within the family and the surrounding environment that supported the guest's ambitions such as (early education , schools , teachers.. etc)
- Education and University: Undergraduate studies, place and specialty that represents the guest's ambitions and dreams of the future.)
- Work :Type of work and place (private/governmental sector) position and authorizations given in this positions , dealing with other male employees and the atmosphere in such working places)
- Future ambitions (further education, leading positions, establishing private business or any other ambitions that shall support the future of the UAE and the other coming generations).

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Through these case studies I was able to extract different environmental, social and sometimes self challenges these women had faced in childhood such as lack of wealth or lose of one of the parents or continues traveling to other countries, and how they were able to overcome them, how were they supported in order to step over them and by whom they were supported in order to continue their higher education studies.

I also extracted the results of their success and how did this reflect on a traditional conservative community that was only ten years back a male dominant in many of professions and leading positions. From this study I was also able to identify the need for women in leading positions dealing with many female issues only such as managing female's schools or other pure women's associations.

History of Education in the UAE

Education has always been considered as a tool for development and prosperity in the UAE .The value of education made it the main element that led the country to its progress and helped it to be included in the list of leading countries. According to an article in the website of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Ben Rashid Vice President , Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, its mentioned that before the discovery of oil, development was very little and slow in the Arabian Peninsula, and certainly no proper educational system.⁸

In 1962, when oil production started in Abu Dhabi, the country had just 20 schools for less than 4,000 students, most of them boys. The country lacked the necessary infrastructure for development (hospitals, proper housing, airports, etc.) as well as qualified human resources". It then goes on to tell how the discovery of oil provided necessary finance to improve education and how His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE late President aimed to make education a necessary tool for development and he used the oil revenue to develop education in order to improve the society and make UAE people academically and technically qualified to run the country

⁸ <http://www.sheikhmohammed.co.ae/vgn-ext-templating/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=1e8c4c8631cb4110VgnVCM100000b0140a0aRCR>

to its best future. He looked at both men and women in the same scale and tried his best to make both of them get the same opportunities in the UAE.

In this paper I shall provide a small introduction about this history that I found in books and some internet sites, but I again point out the lack of documents and the poorness of references in this field. Women's education in the Gulf region was never an important issue encouraged by the dominant males at any time , but there is always a start and there is always a woman who took the step to lead the country to its prosperous future.

Principles and general objectives of education in the UAE

Education in the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) was always an important factor and investment that the country depends on, decisions which follows the directives of His Highness the President who focuses on education as the core of human development and the key to future prosperity. Accordingly education in the UAE is going through rapid changes to follow the changing cultural and economical environment .It emphasizes that “Man is the most precious value and the most important element in the State” as this was the main ruling concept that gave education an important role in the lives of all Emarati people. The leaders of the UAE recognized the importance of education when they included it in the constitution .Equitable education compulsorily to the age of six for all locals and expatriates in the UAE made it the base for culture and development.

General Objectives

The general objectives of education in the UAE are based on the following principles:

- Education is considered a national investment in the UAE and not only a complementary factor as it is provided to nationals and expatriates and its compulsory for the first six years all children while the ministry is focusing nowadays to make education compulsory for all of 12 first years .
- Education is a main factor in the achievement of stability and national security and to allow the UAE be included in the list of progressive countries .

- Education is formed to match national and community needs and the curriculums in the UAE are designed to fulfill the needs of a community that is looking forward for change and adopting technology to be one of its basic tools. It furthers development requirements and enhances the pride of Arab nationalism developing the UAE national identity and stimulating in students the value of importance of education in their lives and why do they need education for their future.
- Educational institutions are not only built to teach the regular curriculum but they are striving to increase student achievement rates and increase the efficiency of the use of educational resources .They make major efforts to improve while plans in the field of education are studied in order to be expanded and the principle of equal opportunities in all stages of education is adopted to make education facilities equal for all and not restricted by any borders.
- The education policy in the UAE is based on scientific and objective principles and it is working to merge technology within the curriculum to ensure the student's intellectual and emotional development .It also works for allowing talents and gifts to emerge and distinguish themselves in all fields in order to be prepared for the future. It is focusing on training and enhancing the value of work as the tool to progress and development and not only the tool for becoming rich.
- Emphasizing that education is a lifelong process that needs all efforts and cannot be limited to years or even to granting certificates.

Including equal opportunities for all community members and not excluding women from any faculty that was in the past monopolized by men only.⁹

Education in the UAE can be divided to three periods according to a study published on unesco.org website

⁹ <http://www.ibe.unesco.org/countries/countryDossier/natrep96/uarab96.pdf>

First Period : (1903-1952)

This period offered pre systematic education, and it was named "the religious education period" or " The popular education period ".This was the period when "Mutawwa" used to teach the "Quran", mathematics and Arabic language voluntarily in a corner in his house. Before the UAE was established, people used to study at (Kuttab) which means the place where children were sent to learn the (Quran) and recite it with the help of (Al Mutawwa) . There were many (Katateeb) distributed in the town , and females also enjoyed their education at a special (Kuttab) managed by a female (Mutawaa). Many years before oil was discovered in the Emirates , people worked as fishermen and divers for pearl .Oil in the 60s was discovered first in Kuwait and many Emarati families went to Kuwait for work . In Kuwait at that time , education was already established, and many schools were opened to receive children in primary , preparatory and secondary levels. Emirati families, who worked in Kuwait, sent their children to schools. Girls were also sent to schools as many of Kuwaiti girls used to study and learn in schools.

Second Period: (1953-1971)

The "Systematic Learning Period" .began in 1953 and is considered as the time for schools establishment in the UAE. Kuwaiti curriculums were used in schools at that time in the northern emirates while the Egyptian and Jordanian religious curriculums were taught in Abu Dhabi schools .Education was divided into four stages in each level , primary , intermediate and secondary but in Abu Dhabi it was divided into six years for primary and three years for each of intermediate and secondary level.

Third Period from 1972 –until today

The UAE was established in 1971. In Sheikh Mohammed Ben Rashid Vice President , Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai website¹⁰ it is mentioned that in this period “education was still largely confined to urban areas, and there were less than 28,000 students in the country. Any student wishing to go beyond secondary education was financed by the government and had to go abroad, sometimes to other Arabic countries, but mainly to England and the United States”. The article continues to say :” The UAE educational system was established at the beginning of the 1970s, and comprises four stages, spanning 14 years of education: 4-5 year olds attend kindergarten, 6-11 year olds attend primary schools, the preparatory stage caters for children aged between 12-14 years, and 15-17 year olds attend secondary schools” .

This period that started with the establishment of the UAE brought a comprehensive extension in quality and quantity of education .Many financial and social changes accompanied education in the increasing numbers of schools, students, teachers and administrators. Oil discovery and the agreement between the seven neighboring emirates , with the wisdom of the late Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan who was chosen to be the president of the UAE has continuously and sincerely emphasized the concept of human's development through education. Sheikh Zayed knew that if education was made compulsory by law , then people would enroll their children in schools and they would not try to keep them from learning .This law was entered in the country's constitution, so people would look at it seriously and it would become a lifestyle for all. Every UAE Leader agreed with Sheikh Zayed about the importance of education and they also backed the concept that education should be a facility easily available and free of charge for both males and females. Since then the Ministry of Education has understood the traditions and ways of thinking among UAE people, and has become aware that there should be schools in all areas next to people's houses and when a new school is opened in a new area, there should be two of them, one for

10-<http://www.sheikhmohammed.co.ae/vgn-ext-templating/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=1e8c4c8631cb4110VgnVCM100000b0140a0aRCRD> ¹⁰

females and another one for males in order to make things easier for families and children themselves.

UAE Educational Policy

In the year 1977, the UAE granted education for both females and males and in 1981 the Ministry of Education has revised its targets in order to make education wider and to include the general policy of the country within its educational system.

The following general objectives of education are taken into consideration:

- inculcating faith in God and His prophets, as well as moral and human values;
- inculcating pride in Arab nationalism, the nation itself and the homeland;
- ensuring the student's physical, intellectual and emotional development;
- training individuals about the duties of citizenship and political and community participation;
- inculcating the values and practices of work, production and perfection;
- preparing human beings for the future (initiation, creativity, planning and organization);
- contributing to the realization of comprehensive development and bridging the gap in technological achievement;
- developing methodical, critical and rational thinking;
- eradicating illiteracy as a priority case, since it affects society and its growth; emphasizing that education is a lifelong process.¹¹

The social objectives of education include: equal opportunities in education for all community members, laying stress on education for women; stressing the integration of humanity and openness to different nations, as well as benefiting from the experiences of others; emphasizing the role of the family and other institutions in the educational process; integrating foreign workers and minorities into the community culture, through non-formal and private education facilities.

¹¹ Taken from International Bureau of Education of UNESCO, <http://www.ibe.unesco.org>

The economic objectives of education stress the preparation, qualifying and training of national manpower in a way that facilitates the diversification of national income sources, in addition to offering educational opportunities to all children in order to develop their abilities in technological fields and to meet overall development requirements.

Women's Education Today (Where are they now?)

Compared with systematic education that started in the 70s, females education have developed and changed a lot . It is very clear from many articles that present statistics about numbers of females who joined higher education that there is a big change happening in this field which made women settle and make a difference in the society.

Aisha Balkhair , supervisor of career services at Dubai Women's College wrote :

”In the UAE as elsewhere, families face increasing economic pressure from a changing global economy. The high cost of living has rendered women's economic contributions increasingly essential to the household income. As a result of this economic pressure, the conservative cultural views that prohibited women's working outside of the home have rapidly shifted. Women's education has improved in all arenas; women are even more likely to be able to drive, since commuting to work and other job-related obligations require mobility. “¹²

According to a Contemporary Review, August, 1997 by Habeeb Salloum under the title of “UAE celebrates 25 years of success” he said :

“Wealth and education have transformed the age-old social life in the country for the better. This is best reflected in the much enhanced lives of the U.A.E. women today. The stimulus for this dramatic evolvement has been universal education. Ninety-nine per cent of all girls now go to school and illiteracy amongst those ten and over has dropped to just over eleven per cent. In higher education, more than half of the 14,000 students of the Emirates University in

¹² http://www.aacu.org/OCWW/volume36_3/global.cfm

Al Ain (the chief institute of higher learning in the U.A.E.) are women. Education has meant giving women the means to reason and act independently. educating a man you educate an individual, but by educating a woman you educate a family

He included his article¹³ with some information that may shed a light on the fact of women's education in the UAE:

- U.N. statistics indicate that the U.A.E. is among the most developed nations in educating females.
- U.A.E. women have literally blossomed and there is no limit to their choices of careers as teachers, doctors and leaders. About twenty per cent of the total work-force is now female.
- Over eighty per cent of the employees within each of the Ministries of Health and Education are women.
- UAE women are joining the military and police forces –over 5.000 U.A.E women have enlisted in the army alone.
- Latterly and as instructed by Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, wife of His Highness the President of the UAE and President of the General Union of Women in the UAE, and mentioned in The Interaction of Arab Women with Science and Technology that was held on 24-26 April 1999 - Abu Dhabi Declaration

The Strategy of the General Union of women in the UAE entails the following:

All levels of the education system must be developed and its constituents reformed with a view to enhancing its economic, cultural and social output and accelerating the rate of comprehensive and sustainable development. This particularly entails:

¹³http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2242/is_n1579_v271/ai_19968631/pg_3

realizing the 'education for all' principle and translating this right into good and equal educational opportunities for both sexes and for all areas and regions; this would necessarily lead to the spread and universality of basic education among the young, as well as the eradication of adult illiteracy, especially among women.

This declaration focused on enhancing the following legal and educational issues in order to grant education and legal security for both genders in the UAE society :

* New laws or amendments to existing laws should be passed that establish the following:

- Equality between men and women in terms of wages and incentives, keeping in mind that women should be able to perform their familial duties,
- Provision of a safe working environment and safety precautions in manufacturing companies,
- Provision of incentives to encourage research and technological development and innovation,
- Provision of a suitable reward system and retirement plan for women,
- Measures to encourage the private sector to employ women in the field of S&T.

Female and male students should be encouraged to study S&T at all levels of general education and to develop a positive tendency to specialize in the same at the higher educational level¹⁴.

¹⁴http://www.unesco.org/science/wcs/meetings/arb_doha_e_99.htm

Dr .Mouza Obaid Ghanim Ghubash

PhD in Social Sciences

Businesswoman and owner of cultural & Educational centre

Family and Early childhood

Obaid Ghanim Saeed Bin Ghubash was Mouza's father who came from the Al Meheiri Tribe. Obaid's family lived in Dubai as one of the original populations who lived there and he worked at that time with His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai in (1955) . Mouza's mother, Ousha Bent Hussain, didn't go to school, but she was of a big effect on her children's lives and backed them to continue their education , understanding with her sixth sense that the future is for education .Ousha , the mother , was a brilliant open minded woman who was always in quest of education and fond of reading books in Islamic , Arabic traditions and heritage studies . Those readings made her more understanding and ready for changes while Mouza inherited this reading habit from her, and learned that life can be learnt and seen through books . The mother was also a businesswoman in the field of investments and real estates .She by her natural senses and abilities invested in real estate ,by buying and selling and she acquired a good reputation in this business at that time . Mouza talks about her mother very proudly and feels always that she loved her personality, admired her integrity and courage and being a big support for the family, and admits that she is following her as a noble model .Mouza's mother (Ousha) was also a nationalistic woman and was in contact with many famous Egyptian writers and authors. (This reflects on her children as one of them Ghanim Ghubash become a very famous nationalistic with powerful ideas and aims to support the UAE , he published a very important magazine named (Al Azmina Al Arabia) and this magazine was one of the largest and tangible changes in the UAE society) .This strong and ambitious personality of the mother was the first step that built Mouza's personality and character Her admiring and feeling of her mother's strength made her become also a strong woman with great ideas and future looks towards women's positions. She became

involved in many cultural aspects and projects to support females, and families in the UAE, in order to keep Ousha's memory alive and serve the UAE society development as the mother used to do.

Mouza was born in Al Hudaibia district in Ras al Khaima, United Arab Emirates in 1955. Her birth wasn't officially registered as this practice was followed in these rural districts until six of her brothers and sisters were born. Most of them were born in Dubai but she wasn't. She and her family lived in Dubai from her early childhood and she attended all her early school years in it. Mouza can still remember her grandmothers' farm, which was full of palm trees and dates. Palm trees form a traditional strong identity attachment in the life of every UAE Citizen. Mouza remembers that Ras al Khaima was the most comfortable peaceful place for all other Emirates people who used to visit it from all of the UAE and they were used to spend their summer vacations in it because Ras Al Khaima was famous in having plenty of water and palm trees .It was the Oasis in the Desert .

Dr.Mouza remembers schools at that time as not only places for education but they were also centers for enjoyment. Children started to learn more and explore their egos at that time within schools. In the fifties and sixties education was a difficult aim and it turned to be a very faraway dream for people. Dubai established a number of schools at that time and Mouza was able to enroll in some of them. She remembers her first elementary school named Al Khansa school, Khawla Bent al Azwar preparatory school and Amna Bent Wahab Secondary School. She studied in Dubai in elementary stage Schools and then transferred to Sharjah as scientific classes were only available at Sharjah. She was transferred to Sharjah Schools only when she started her secondary education.

University

Mouza Ghubash graduated from Amina Bent Wahab, Sharjah Girls high school in 1973 and was the sixth overall UAE graduate. At that time there were no universities in the United Arab Emirates and her mother did not allow her to travel abroad. The UAE conservative traditions were the real main obstacle to her dreams to achieve a higher education and become an educated person. She worried and planned to find a way to enter the university and complete her education. Mouza started her search for rescue route by asking her family to permit her traveling abroad. Her mother rejected the idea as at that time females were not allowed to travel abroad alone. Her mother was an open minded woman but she could not risk and send her daughter abroad. Mouza, who was shocked by the fact, and who dreamt about success, cried all the summer, but didn't hesitate to try convincing her family .The rescue came through her brother Ghanim who was an educated and open minded person. He played a very important role in her life and he was very supporting Her mother finally agreed, but said that she would not have to assume the responsibility for what might happen. Mouza traveled with fifteen females from the UAE to Kuwait University. They were the heroines who could dig the way for other females later on. Mouza lived with these students in a female hostel for four years. Her mother visited her frequently with other family members in order to show them how her daughter was studying in a safe environment and that living in the hostel was a very safe place for all other females. Mouza received her Bachelors degree in Sociology and Psychology from Al Kuwait University in 1977.

Work

After graduation Mouza considered her unknown future. She had previously dreamt of becoming a psychologist but she did not know how to do that. She found herself more concerned about social phenomena so she entered this field of study. In 1977, after her graduation, the UAE announced the establishment of its first University. The foundation of this university in Al Ain Town came from the wise thought and resolution of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan who wanted all of the UAE students and people to gather for their education in one neutral location. His selection of Al Ain was politically and geographically a wise choice. The first graduate

Batch was of 170 males and females. Now the University has more than twenty thousand students in it and graduates are increasing. Mouza met Dr. Abdulla Omran the president in the UAE University at that time who was a friend of her brother. He asked her to join the university as an undergraduate student. Her mother agreed and took her to Al Ain. She resumed work there in 1977 and she became also a supervisor for the females student's hostel. At that time Mouza had time to practice more readings which was a habit she adopted from her mother and she started researching and suggesting recommendations for the society. She also did research in the social, popular heritage and folklore of the Gulf region and looked forward to see the UAE Heritage published in books and pictures by cameras in order to be preserved. She wrote several books in that field and studied many more phenomena's of the UAE society. For seven years Mouza produced many studies about the UAE society and issued a UAE heritage Encyclopedia and she was able to get her PhD and become one of the first to prove women's abilities to reach higher education and qualifications.

Future

Dr. Mouza Ghubash was one of the first of a group of women who changed the conceptual ideas of the UAE families about sending their daughters to study abroad. This concept was totally rejected by the families at that time and it was a great step taken by Dr. Mouza who was courageous enough to decide traveling and to convince her family to accept the change through her. She proved to be a reliable and credible person at that difficult time and helped in paving the way for more women who began to travel and study away from their families and country. She produced many books about very difficult issues that arose in UAE society after the discovery of oil. Currently, she is a very active person who travels and attends many conferences, seminars, summits and meetings worldwide. She is also famous in the UAE as an intellectual who founded a cultural centre named after her mother "Rawaq Ousha" to maintain alive her memory as an educated woman who encouraged education and women to step ahead. Dr. Mouza also established an award named "The ideal mother award" through which she searches for real stories of love and sacrifice. She awards the prize to good stories of noble mothers that help guide the UAE people and put models

in front of them .Dr.Mouza has established her own business in the field of real estate in order to maintain her charity donations and to allow her cultural foundation to work for other people. She carries a letter for all UAE females asking them to study in sociological and cultural specialties and not to revolve only around studying technology .She advises them to work for charities and to donate their time and efforts to doing the best for their country .She hopes that women can become able to discuss and launch their opinions regarding their lives and many issues during conferences and other meetings.

Dr. Meshkan Al Awar

PhD in Physical chemistry from Wales University -1996

Director of Researches and Studies Section at Dubai Police Academy.

Family and Childhood

Her family encouraged her to study. Her mother wished always to see her in a very high position and she used to encourage her and ask her to achieve the best degrees in her studies. She attended public schools and has achieved the highest degrees at her time.

University

She joined the UAE University at Al Ain. She graduated from there with a bachelor degree in “Chemistry/Geology”. Her grade was 4.0 and she graduated with a distinction on the honor list .She enjoyed her studies and this specialty was her choice. She was fond of learning sciences and had fun in studying these tuff subjects that were once monopolized by males only.

Her ambitions in studying didn't stop and she continued her higher studies at Wales University in the United Kingdom. She granted her PhD in Polymath in 1996 and proved by this that women are able to achieve the best if they work for that .

Work

After graduation Dr.Meshkan become the first UAE chemistry teacher working in this field in public schools. She also participated in writing the Chemistry curriculum which was unified for all of the Gulf Cooperative Countries at that time within 1995-1996.She didn't feel that teaching was the right choice that can fulfill her ambitions and lead her to a better future within the scientific world. Lately teaching become as a daily routine and this dull environment couldn't give her enjoyment anymore. She left her teaching job and aimed to Dubai Police searching for a job there holding a desire to be more involved in such a field which is surrounded by science and scientific environment. For years after working with Dubai Police she started to feel herself as a part of this place and she could prepare and achieve many researches work in the best environment that includes the best modern techniques with a developed level in the

usage of technology. She started to work as an employee in researches section in developing and training management in the public management for criminal proofs. She gradually and after recognizing her work by people there ,managed to become the head of this section .This place helped her to do more studies and researches .She introduced and presented her work at local and international conferences. She also represented the UAE in various international activities .One of the most important and distinguished trip for Dr.Mishkan was her trip to Boston in the US .She got a special invitation from Dr. Farouq Al Baz , Space Researches Scientist to go there . She joined a one month training course about space photography and Geographical Data Systems. In that training she becomes able to know how they use the space photography to uncover the criminal crimes in addition to uncovering the places for hiding drugs.

She was nominated to work as a member in the higher committee for Zayed International Environmental Prize .After joining this prize she started t travel a lot worldwide to announce and make other countries become aware of this prize. This prize according to Dr. Meshkan has given her a chance to devote her time and work for the environment and to distribute awareness around students and people everywhere.

Future

Dr.Meshkan is enjoying her work. She looks at her achievements with a satisfied feeling. She wants to serve more and in a better way by conducting more researches and studies in the fields of sciences and environment. She was awarded the prize for distinguished employee in Dubai Distinguished Performance Award and her name was nominated to be written on Mars Planet in the year 2003 as a distinguished woman in her scientific efforts .She also ranted a participation certificate from “NASA” in the field of scientific researches.

Dr. Meshkan says that the UAE woman has achieved success by her various and continues participations in many events. She impressed people by her achievements. She says that when she started her work in this scientific field people were astonished by her efforts and they couldn't firstly believe that a woman can do what she did. She

stood between many scientists and specialists in this tuff field and competed with them successfully.

Her work put her on a solid land and made people believe that women has proved their success in different fields . She is looking at the new generation who want to get everything as an ambitious generation who is able to get things done vastly according to the era.

She follows up her work and doesn't forget or ignore her duty as a mother of four children. She is also giving her hobby in watching movies enough time so that she can stay attached to real life and accompany all of the development in different fields.

An official invitation was sent for Dr.Meshkan Al awar to become a member in the Authority supervising the Universal working council in Sustainability development in manufacturing the universal tires which is located in Geneva.

Dr.Amna Khalifa

**General Manager for Humaid Ben Rashid Al Nuaimi Establishment
for Human Growth & Development in Ajman .**

Family and childhood

She was born in a conservative family attached to its traditions and customs knowing that these traditions express her family's identity. Her family was small but very cooperative, closed and secure. All of her family members were able to appreciate the different social and economical circumstances that may occur in certain times in early sixties. Their relations were warm and very special. She lost her father when she was seven months old, but she considers her stepfather as a real father because he took good care of her and she grew up knowing him as her only father. He didn't let her believe that there were any difference between him as a stepfather and her real father and he treated her very kindly..

Her family moved to Saudi Arabia and they lived in Dammam in the eastern district. She directly joined grade two at one of Saudi Intermediate Schools there. The family had to move again to Qatar and there she started her preparatory educational level. She was a very distinguished learner and became one of the ten students in the honor list level when she sat for the preparatory exams. Women were not widely educated in the UAE at that time and they faced many difficulties and challenges. Families were not encouraging females to go for education and there were small numbers of females who could learn and go to schools.

University

Females at that time in the beginning of sixties were not even allowed to choose the specialty in which they wanted to enroll. They were restricted to working only as teachers or nurses. Because she was a distinguished student the Qatari Government allowed her to join the teachers college that was only accepting Qatari nationals as students. She entered the Islamic Studies section as a major and Arabic Language as a minor. She finished her studies in three and a half years. She was granted the bachelor

degree with a grade of A and she was the first among all graduates in her year.in the second class of graduates.

After graduating from Qatar University in 1978 from Teachers college she returned to the UAE and enrolled at the UAE University as an assistant professor in order to get her Ph.D. She was sent on an expedition for her Masters Degree and she chose Egypt as there was a private hostel for UAE females students there .She enrolled in Al Azhar University and graduated in 1985. Her PhD was in Ain Shams University in Cairo in 1988 and she was granted a scholarship to Minnesota University in 1998. She still remembers the hard work she exerted while writing research papers and preparing her doctoral thesis. Her subject was the educational and cultural role of the women's associations in 1988 in the GCC, UAE, & Middle East.

Work

Dr.Amna enjoys her work. She likes to meet with people and listen to their opinions .She worked in 1991 as the Director for the UAE University Affiliation at Um Al Quwain , in 1992 and until 2000 she was the Director of the UAE University Affiliation at Sharjah and she works presently as the General Manager in Sheikh Humaid Al Nuaimi Establishment for Development that serves and develops the community 's economical and social processes and looks after employing human resources in the best ways .It also works to function the roles of different community sectors such as women and youths and to arm them with the best abilities that help them to develop good plans and strategies for the country . .Dr.Amna is always searching for new programs and ideas and she cares a lot for families affairs and to help in developing them . She says that developing humans is her aim and working for them is her future program. She believes that families are the core of success and that is why she wants to exert her efforts and thoughts to develop families and look after their issues in order to raise general awareness concerning the importance of families and making them more educated about different issues.

Future

Dr.Amna is not only working for people inside the establishment but she travels a lot and attends many conferences and workshops in which she tries to get more ideas and offer some of her own ideas for the development of the society . She writes essays and in her social articles she tries to express her thoughts through them. She writes about many social issues and touches the internal UAE problems. Numerous people discuss such issues with her and attempt to communicate with her to help find solutions for many social problems. Many of her ideas were developed into action plans and they were also used to cultivate the society and support people in it . Some of her suggestions were accepted to be very profitable and leading to success so many new social establishments were built depending on Dr.Amna's plans and ideas .

She is not satisfied with the feeling of fearness that UAE women are suffering from towards mass media. She says that the UAE woman has achieved many important positions but still fears appearing in the mass media to talk about her success and to show the world that she is given her rights in speaking about herself and in becoming a leader in many senior positions. Dr.Amna wants to encourage women to talk about themselves and their experiences in all types of written and visual media. She wants them to share their successes and opinions with the others in the UAE Society through TV programs and many other newspapers and publications. Dr.Amna's dream is to help to form partnerships between different organizations in the society in order to solve many of the critical social issues and problems by supporting people and backing their development financially and in many other different ways . She has written many shared books with other educators and writers and continues to write and think about families and women as her most important subject

Dr.Fatema al Sayegh

Historian Researcher and academic Lecturer at UAE University

Family and childhood

Dr. Fatema was born in Dubai in the Creek area at Alfaheidi District in Bur Dubai . She was born in the place where Al Faheidi Museum is located now and this as she assumes reflected on her future later as she was absorbed by history , tradition and the details of old Dubai . This area was a combination of three districts in the past , Bastakia , Al Banian Market and the Arabs area .The Arabs area was divided into two areas ,the Baharna and Al Shandaga. Al Shandaga was the place in which the ruling family was living. Dr. Fatema was filled with love towards Dubai and this lead her to read and try to explore more about the history of her place of birth.

Dr.Fatema still remembers that area which was the old Dubai area .She says this place was a combination of many people and nationalities that used to live in Dubai since the sixties. There were Indian, Persian and Arabian provinces in it and they used to live in peace and good relations together. Dubai used to be a symphony of peaceful and tight relations and it was composed of many cooperated and neighbored nationalities from the past. People used to travel and live in Dubai because it was a source of trading in the 20th century . At present Dubai is also a source of economics and a pivot of trading. It is a combination of more than 190 nationalities and this is not a strange or new thing. At that time Dubai economy was dependant on diving for pearls as other gulf countries but trading was also a very important source of economics and for attracting people to live in it .Dr.Fatema remembers how Dubai was a very simple place and people were very friendly. She says that many things of that simplicity are still existing such as popular coffee shops, social life and feelings of sympathy between everyone. The most important incident in her life in the year 1968 was when she was a small child playing with her mates when some helicopter planes passed over them .Those planes started to throw some papers and pamphlets with written sentences and texts. These newsletters were notifying people that Dubai started to export Oil and become one of the important

gulf countries in this field. She couldn't understand as a child what did that mean and she didn't figure the importance of those incidents on her future as a female. Her grandfather used to work as a Tawash, which means a pearl merchant. She remembers sitting around him with her brothers and sisters while he was dividing the pearls into groups and when he finishes his work he gives the children all of the very small pearls . Hassan Al Sayegh her father was a wise man and he established a school in Dubai .She says her father was an educator fond of education and he helped her to look forward at education as a very important factor in her life. She studied in many of Dubai government primary, preparatory and secondary schools and she remembers that since she was born she found education around her as most of her family members were educated people and she could learn as her brothers did without any feeling of discrimination. Her childhood was a happy simple childhood and she didn't face any obstacle regarding her education at that time. She thinks that all of the surroundings made her fond of history and she was pushed to study this subject because she felt she wanted to know more about many people about Dubai it self as a combination of different places and nationalities and all the changes that made Dubai develop vastly and successfully.

University

After her graduation from the high school she was sent by the help and support of her father to Al Kuwait University to continue her higher education there . She enrolled in the college of History as she was fond of this subject and she enjoyed learning about the past. After her graduation from the university she came to know that the UAE University is calling postgraduate students to enroll in it and to register in the scholarship given there for higher studies. She registered her self and was sent to continue her studies in one of the Scottish universities in Milwaukee where she studied the Islamic History in it. After that she went to Britain to get her PhD in the History of the Gulf in July 1995. Dr. Fatema admits that her long journey in education was a pleasant journey and she enjoyed family and government support all the time.

Work

Dr. Fatema joined the UAE University as an Academic Lecturer in History. Living in Al Ain meant living away from the family's house, but as the University Staff Hostel was prepared according to the traditions of the UAE and separated from males' hostel she didn't find any objections from her family side upon that, and she was able to resume her work in a helpful relaxed and enjoyable environment. Dr. Fatema enjoys her profession as a lecturer at the UAE University because she wants to transfer all her information that she gained through researches and studies to her students. She says that the UAE women are very well-known in being hard working and great assistances for men in the society in the past and now. They used to play a very important role in their families 'lives in the past and they were the pivot of settlement and success while men used to travel in their trips searching for pearl by diving and spending around six to ten months away from home. Dr.Fatema is very well experienced in academic teaching and researching for a very long time .she gained a lot of her experiences in that field not only in researching but also in attending many conferences and being an active part in any work related to history inside and outside the UAE. She says that the UAE University is a very encouraging environment for both of teaching staff and for students. She could produce a lot of writing work, books and studies in the history of the UAE . She is one of the active females in this field and she has established her good reputation in historian studies after long and many efforts.

Future

Dr. Fatema looks at the future of history researching in the UAE in a very caring and loving eye. She is very concerned about the museums in the UAE .She cares for anything related to history because she knows that success of the present is always related to the good and well founded history. She says that there is no future without knowing and learning about the history of countries and people. This study makes everyone very attached to his nation and more related to his identity. Dr. Fatema carries the idea of building and establishing more museums because museums in her opinion are the best places to teach students and all generations the best subject about history. She admits that all of the present school and university curriculums in history

are not helping students to get the real and clear information about their past ,that's why the country should focus on museums and put a very long plan to establish them in every where. The new generation is famous in being very bored and not able to read or memorize all of the incidents and stories of the past, that is why she says its better if we can combine technology with old things and materials in order to build modern and new museums that can replace the present classical schools and colleges and attract students to learn more about their history. She is filled with enthusiasm to see her dreams regarding these museums and teaching history come true.

Dr. Fatema is a very energetic female in the field of history and she is the first Academic UAE female in it. She has produced many books and they are reliable references for the past of the UAE. Her presence in many conferences and workshops in and outside the UAE has made her an expert in teaching and transferring her experiences to her students .When she talks about the modern Dubai, she can compare it with the past and she knows that learning about the history means knowing the future and estimating the future. She is a member in many associations as the association of building heritage protection and in Dubai cultural Council .Dr. Fatema won the UAE Appreciation Award for all her efforts in preserving the history of the UAE and in being an active person who looks forward to plant the best view for the UAE and its history.

Dr. Fatema al Khemairi

Forensic Medicine Doctor in Dubai Police Head Quarters

Family and Childhood:

Born in Sharjah, one of the UAE seven unified Emirates in a family that was very understanding and encouraging and trying to help all of children in it to gain success, gave her a lot of support and a great push to admit school . Her family as she stated never looked at differences between females and males that was once a main issue which helped to hinder many females from grabbing their chances of success. Her father was always a very open minded man and he was after her to become an educated person to serve her community in the first stage. He is still encouraging her to continue her studies and obtain the PhD in her specialty and this is her dream that she is working now to achieve it.

University

In the year 2000 she graduated from Dubai Medicine College located in the Emirate of Dubai in the UAE as a general doctor .This collage when was established was as a miracle for some girls who admired the study of medicine and dreamt of becoming doctors , but their conservative families didn't accept their daughters to travel abroad Mr. Lootah, a UAE open minded citizen who was after establishing this college thought about females and the need of the UAE for women in the field of medicine. He didn't hesitate to put a wealth in the hands of the experts in order to establish the college and pave the way for those intelligent females who seek specialization in a very important field. In this college Fatima met with many students who were only studying medicine and she got along with many of them easily. She admits that establishing this college in the UAE helped many females who couldn't travel to continue their studies in medicine. She admires the idea of sharing responsibilities between UAE citizens who think about the future of people in it and their country and she knew that this was a good step in order to furnish the country with local females doctors in many fields of specialty .She was granted her bachelor degree in general medicine and surgery from this college and was dreaming about specializing in Cardiac Diseases. Her dreams were

postponed for a while because after her graduation she got a job in Dubai Hospital and started her work there.

Work

After graduation she joined the Ministry of Health in Dubai to work as a doctor in diseases science section at Dubai hospital. One day she was called for an anatomy and she couldn't perform this operation at the hospital because they lack place and the special tools required for such operations .The only place for that was Dubai Police premises that had already a special place for anatomy .She called them and explained her need to use the space allowed for that at the forensic medicine in the Police Headquarters. They didn't hesitate in accepting her there even if this was a very strange process as females were not usually able to think about entering this difficult field. Dubai Police welcomed her and that was in July 2003.Majour Abdul Qader Al Khayat and his deputy Major Mohammed Ahmed Al Merri later on offered her a job at the Dubai Police in the general Management seeing her as a strong confident person who was able to manage such difficulties . She liked the idea and joined them .Then and by their support she went to Scotland to study the forensic Medicine and was able to obtain her Masters Degree in the cases of burning ,poisoning ,suicide and hanging . Fatima became the first UAE female in this field. Dr.Fatima attributes her success to the UAE government support. She knows that their support in facilitating education and giving females a change to enroll in different positions helped a lot to encourage females like her to achieve their dreams and become more helpful for their country.

Future

Dr. Fatima is very optimistic about the future although she faces death everyday pursuant to her job in anatomy,she believes in life more and admires it as a precious gift , and she knows that the future is holding the best opportunities for women in the UAE . She says that there is no difference between males and females nowadays and the UAE is becoming an open country that welcomes every new and civilized ideas .It may was a very strange idea that a UAE female works in forensic Medicine but now its not any more like that The society it self is accepting the changes and welcoming the entrance

of women in different jobs that were monopolized only by men. She is looking forward towards raising up the awareness of people about the importance of forensic in such a changing open society .she knows that it is represented badly in people's minds because it is related to death and crimes but she wants to clarify the concept of duty and the need of forensic in the societies in order to keep them safe and secured. She wants to change the bad idea because she believes that this is a humanitarian job. Dr.Fatima is ambitious to get all of the forensic doctors in the UAE together and to form a unity in which they can discuss issues and try to reduce hinders that they may face in this job.

Nazek Al Sabbagh

Head of Engineers at Jafza (Jabal Ali Free Zone) Dubai

Family and childhood

Nazik was born in a family that cares a lot about education for both of males and females. Their slogan in life was education first. Her father was a businessman who traveled a lot to Europe and Britain. Their trips started from that time when they used to travel with their father to different places and countries. Summer vacations were usually spent in Europe and they knew that they will continue their higher education there. The father used to make his children live in foreign families .they learned the system of live in Europe, how to organize their time and how to bear the challenge of living away from their homes and families. Nazik admits that this experience was a very important thing in their lives. She says that she was very lucky because her background assist her to live abroad and her family were backing her to learn and succeed in her life.

University

After graduating from high school Nazik was the third daughter who left to study in Britain. She wanted to stay and study in the UAE University which was established at that time but her choice of specialty was not available in it at that time. Her father wanted her to study what she wants. She wanted to study engineering and her family wasn't surprised by her decision because her elder sister has already started her studies in this field. Her father brought for her the acceptance to admit University of Boston in Massachusetts in the USA. Her father thought that his children are adapted to live in America, so he gave her a small note with an address written on it. He said to her:” Go to this address and don't come back for one year.” He gave her also a bank account and that was all what he did. She admits that this behaviour helped her to become able to decide for herself and the previous trips during summer vacations to England were the best courses that helped her and her brothers and sisters to be independent and live happily. When she went to the USA she didn't need to spend time in language schools as

she was already fluent in English language so she didn't waste time and she entered the Collage of Civil Engineering.

Work

After graduation she was employed in JAFZA "Jabal Ali Free Zone" as an engineer. She started her work and she was very careful during building her career. She was awarded the Excellency Award for the Excellent Employee because she has shown talents in the field of building. She refers her success to the vision of his Highness Sheikh Mohammed Ben Rashid who wanted always to plant Excellency in every person and thing done. Nazik knew that she was successful and able to achieve excellence in her work so she worked for that and she won many awards for her efficiency and ability to apply new and innovated solution in her field of work.

Nazik's day starts early in the morning and she doesn't stay all her day in the office. Being an engineer means that she has many responsibilities in sites. Her father knew that she wanted to be an engineer and he asked her if she was able to continue in a career that requires her to go out and visit sites. She knew that it is a difficult job that wasn't preferred by women but she knew also that if it is her choice she will sacrifice anything to succeed and she is able to achieve the best results.

Future

Nazik didn't care for being a leader only and occupying a high position in her work place .She cared a lot to develop her abilities and to enroll in many development programes offered by visiting professors to Dubai. Engineering in Dubai is living a revolution and the demand is rising for good engineers. Dubai needs the qualified locals and expatriates engineers in order to cope with its progress and advanced achievements in building. In her life, Nazik is not only an engineer who is minimizing her time in this field. She loves technology and she has a vision to change her department and work without papers. She has succeeded in (e-permit) which allows contractors and companies to receive their building permits through the internet and accomplish their license transactions in this easy way.

Nazik's vision is that success is not limited to one field. She desires to make a success of all of the departments of which she is in charge. Her team has achieved the cup in basketball, football and also they won a prize for their excellent project named "e-map". Through this project people can view the maps electronically and they could get a print out for them easily.

Nazik reads a lot of administrative books in order to benefit from them and draw the road map for treating her staff in the best way. One of her successful projects was "Caring for the interior environment " by which she thought about making the surrounding environment around the workers and employees more greenish and beautiful .Her project depended on recycling the sewerage water and using it to water the interior garden and make it greener. She thought about the labours who work in factories and she wanted them to enjoy life by having this green parks around their houses. Nazik entered the competition of successful Governmental Performance and won the prize for her green parks project.

Nazik is a mother of three. She loves her house and her children. Her husband is a big support to her as her father and mother used to be when she was a child . She admits that her work doesn't affect her life in a negative way because she can organize her time and live properly .At work she seems to be dedicated to her work but when she returns home she is thinking only about her family and she forgets everything else. She has used the same system in treating her children as her father used to do .She is teaching them how to be independent and to learn taking decisions for themselves as she learned.

Dr.Lubna Al Qassimi

Phd in Economics, Minister of Economics

Family and childhood

Dr.Lubna al Qassimi was born in the ruling Sheikhs family in Sharjah. Her family appreciated education a lot and she found herself in the middle of culturally open minded people who were fond of education and encouraging others to follow this path .She aimed to walk on the same road and latterly education with knowledge became the most important thing in her life. She discovered her passion in grade eleven when she used to love learning mathematics and physics. They were her favourite subjects. She also loved technology and when she decided to study information technology she was only seventeen years old. She was able to make her choices in an early age and that was the focus of her background and the supporting environment in which she lived and learned.

University

She graduated in 1981 from the State of California University and was granted her bachelor in Computer sciences. This field of Informatics technology wasn't an easy task for women in the UAE and also in many other countries as there were only five females in her class among thirty males. This small number could be discouraging for a female who is coming from the Gulf but Dr. Lubna was able to follow this challenge and face any difficulty in order to prove to her self and her family that she could succeed even if the subject and the target was a difficult one.

Work

Sheikha Lubna is now the Minister of Economics in the UAE for a second period. She was chosen for this position by the UAE leaders because she has proved to be a successful leader in her work. She worked in many places after her graduation and she got many attractive offers to work at different prestigious American companies while she was in the states but she refused them all and she preferred to come back home and work in the UAE. She didn't work in governmental sector as the majority of UAE

graduates prefer to do but she worked with a software company in Dubai called “Data Mission”. She was the only local and the only female in that company. She accepted to work from 8 am to 6 pm and she wasn’t hesitated to go for the job. She become after training in many divisions, the manager of the public data authority in Dubai .This authority was in charge of transferring the government to e-gov. She received her big opportunity in the year 1987 when she was appointed as the senior manager for the informatics in Dubai ports Authority. She spent seven yeas there and helped in developing it so it is the most developed ports in the Gulf nowadays. She said to Arabs Trends magazine that she faced her first challenge when she had to work as a businesswoman while her experience was in engineering information. She was a manager over 100 persons in her department but she learned that she has to succeed and give results. After that in the year 2000 she became the president of Tejari Dot Com which offers e-business shopping and tenders for sellers and buyers. This Tejari received many awards under the leadership of Sheikha Lubna . In 2001 she headed the Dubai e-government executive team who was in charge of establishing the e-government initiatives in the public sector. She became the first female minister in the Ministry of Economics and Planning.

Future

Sheikha Lubna is a very busy person and her responsibilities fills her agenda but she is also donating most of her efforts and time to sponsor many charity activities in the Emirates. She is intensively working as a member in the Cancer Patients friends association and she is a board member in the Dubai syndrome Centre .She is a member in Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Dubai University College ,Comprehensive e-college and Zayed University in Dubai . She reads a lot of books and she loves traveling. She lived in the United Kingdom and the United States of America and in Japan for many months. She considers traveling as one of her major and preferred amusements. Sheikha Lubna is a leader of change and she resembles the new generation of UAE females who are looking forward to occupy important and political positions and not to limit their ambitions in the frame of a job. She talks a lot in favor of females and she backs women to get good and higher leading positions. Her managing style is open and

very helpful for all employees. She calls women to join the field of technology and encourages them to get a higher role in that.

Nafeesa Al Mulla

Businesswoman and a Private School Owner

Awarded the UAE Business women award for 2006 and she has established a private school in Abu Dhabi named: “Al Murooj” and was the first UAE woman who got the masters degree in Education.

Family and early childhood

She was born in a conservative family in the Emirate of Sharjah. She was in the middle between her brothers and sisters. She thinks that her family was distinctive because her father insisted that all his children should get the most of education and face any challenges in that regard. He was fair to both males and females in this opinion and sent all of them to schools. Nafeesa was sent with her brothers and sisters to Britain to continue their postgraduate studies. Her father left the choice of study for his children and didn't interfere in that. Now most of them are occupying diplomatic and prestigious positions in the UAE, others are merchants and in the field of education. Her father was a friendly member in the family and he loved them all. Her mother continued the way after his death and became their mother and friend. The mother's most important desire was keeping her children with traditions and making them follow the community's roles even if they were mostly educated in British schools. Her mother had a belief that values cannot be found in schools but they are lived with and inherited so they should always remember holding them tightly.

Nafisa studied in British schools in the UAE and in Britain until her high school graduation. Her father felt that she may forget her original language so he tried to send her for a while to Arabic Schools until she could become fluent in her language. Life was enjoyable and easy for her at that time as she could look around and understand life from a better view by learning from different cultures and countries. She had many friendships that made her more open minded to life.

University

The most difficult time was when she was transferred from high school to the university as she enrolled in the UAE University where studying was in Arabic Language and she thought about leaving the university but Dr. Abdulla Omran who was in the university insisted that she should accept the challenge and continue to study in the same university .He encouraged her a lot and was tough on her until she accepted the situation and she got her masters degree from Britain in 1995. She is still looking forward to continue her studies and get her PHD degree when she can find time for that

Work:

Nafisa remembers how Sheikh Zayed the late president of the UAE encouraged education and made learning the first and most important fundamental for great societies. He said:” Any community without education is not considered as a community”. She is also grateful because she got a scholarship to finish her masters from the UAE government. .Her decision to establish a private school was because of Sheikh Zayed opinion and because she knew that investment in education is better than any other investments. She says that growing brains is better than growing any other investments and businesses. The best award that Nafisa got was the confidence in her school and parents bringing their children to enroll in it.

Nafisa says that the UAE society which is opened for new changes and newcomers, is ready for everyone and has allowed her as others to get good chances for success. She believes that the understanding of the leaders in the UAE and their desire to make the people better and in higher thinking standards has helped her a lot. In the UAE equity between women and men plays a great role in making life better and easier for both of them .The UAE women are in their best era and enjoying the changes that poured in their benefit and made them in better positions. Nafisa returns her success for being a UAE national who lives in this place and enjoys the open minded and encouraged by the leaders. In her opinion she can look at the spread of English language and learning it makes the new generation in better position and activate them towards the new changes that happen in the world. She also looks after teaching Arabic language in her

school and knows that learning Arabic means preserving the Arabic Identity of children in order to balance between their education and their future.

Future:

Nafisa is a very ambitious woman who cannot limit her ambitions .She is planning now for her future project to establish an educational consulting centre for students. She wants all children to learn how to form their clear visions towards future and how understand their abilities, employ them in a good way and help them to cope with the very fast changes that go around us. She also thinks that students should learn how to preserve their identity and be more attached to their family and society relations.

Hamda Al heraizi

The first UAE female investor in Caviar

Family and childhood

Since she was 12 years old she started her first business. She sold the old pieces of bread from the area where she used to live, gather them in bags and sell them for factories in order to recycle them and make them food for animals. Her first earnings were 7500 dirhams (around 2000 dollars) from this work in 1988. Then she worked for her father's friend in summer vacations. He was a businessman used to work in the business of Caviar. He gave her a salary of 500 dirhams monthly and she started by cleaning the cans and then filling them with Caviar. She become professionalized in this work and after that she reached the most important stage in this work ,she started to taste the Caviar .She learned that the Caviar is composed of four main types , Estra , Imperial, Sioro and Cowbloca. They can be distinguished by taste only. She become able to differentiate between all of these types by tasting them .She rented a shop for fish in Mrshed Market in Dubai and started to become independent and work in the business of Caviar with some of the Iranian merchants who came to Dubai for this business. She also helped the merchants to buy their things from the shops in Dubai and they used to give her a percentage for this work. She admits that men were behind her success .She says "Men helped me in everything I used to do from the beginning of my working life. I worked with my father's friend and he had a big effect in my success. My father was also a great help to me when he understood my desire to work in business despite being a young female at that time. He supported me because he felt that I want success and I need to work for it by myself. Finally Mr. Mohammed Al Fahim the famous UAE businessman supported me and I still go to him for any advice. He is giving me his advise and helping me to succeed."

University

Hamda was a different female and she didn't find time for herself to enjoy her time, age and she couldn't complete her university studies because she was very busy in her business. She wasn't able to go out for shopping or for picnics but she dedicated herself

for work until she reached success. She says that she doesn't regret that because she loved her work and she wanted to be unique in this field. "I think I am unique because I am the only female who is working in this business locally and internationally." Hamda said.

Work

At the beginning of her work she found many objections from people and larger companies who tried to plant obstacles in front of her .She found some problems in financing her project because she needed a big amount of money to start, besides that the UAE females were not yet used to travel and ratify business transactions .Hamda was a very patient person and she lead herself to success as if she was going through a battle. She established her factory "Black Pearl" for canning Caviar but she admits that she fell in many gaps of mistakes because she hasn't employed a consultant who would instruct and help her in this field so she lost many times .She says that she lost once around 20 thousand dollars and in another time she lost 16 million dirhams because of a resolution issued depending on the recommendations of " the international agreement for trading in rare animals organization" .This resolution recommended to stop any trading in rare animals such as the Caviar. Hamda was forced to stop working many times but she returned stronger and continued her way to success.

Future

Hamda is worried about the Caviar Fish because this fish lives in Qazween Sea and the universal production of this fish is reducing. She says that she intends to make a farm to increase this fish .She says that she has fulfilled her desires and she granted the title of the first Lady in Caviar Business .She advises all girls not to allow anyone or anything stand and prevent her dreams . She also calls all girls to protect their religion and tradition in order to become good examples for the other future generations. Hamda loves sports and she takes good care of her self and her image as a woman. She has granted from the Iranian Government the right to open branches for shops and her factory is inclusively distributing the Iranian Caviar in the Middle East area.

Hessa Al Esaily

Chairman and owner of Al Nawras Establishment for Conferences and Exhibitions Arrangements .

Family and early childhood:

Born in Sharjah in Al Sudan area next to the large castle of sheikhs which is known now as Al Hesn Museum, Hessa was a small brilliant girl who came to life in an open minded family who believe that education is a n important virtue. Her grandfather was an educator himself and this planted in herself the first impression about the importance of education. He taught many people in the UAE at that time and he was also a captain in the sea and one of the famous pearl traders at that time. In Sharjah at that time of pearl diving decade, only two schools were founded there, one of which was built only for males and the other one for females according to the UAE Muslim traditions. Hessa says that she started her early school in Al Zahra Government school. She says that the relation between boys and girls at that time was a very respectable relation as girls used to meet boys in several festivals or during school exhibitions. This made them look at boys in a normal way that didn't reflect any bad feelings towards each other While Hessa was studying, she also worked as a broadcaster in the Coast Sound Broadcast (the first broad cast at that time in Dubai) and then she moved to work for Kuwait TV that used to work from Dubai. Hessa remembers the attack of Britain, France and Israel on Egypt in 1956, and how people at that time were angry after hearing the news that was announced through the radio. Hessa was one of the girls who lead a strike in sharjah against this injustice attack on their country. .Hessa says that their teachers at that time were strongly absorbed with the feeling of enthusiasm against any other country that would attack a peaceful small emirate .Those teachers were feeding their students how to love their countries and the Arab nation along with education .She participated in many plays and activities at school to raise the awareness of students about Palestine and Israel issue there. Hessa was a leading personality from her childhood.

University:

She went to Kuwait to continue her university studies. After granting her two years diploma from Kuwait she transferred to Egypt .She was granted a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture and Media to study in Egypt at Ain Shams Girls College .She granted her higher diploma from there in Arabic Language and Literature. Then she worked in exhibitions section at the ministry after granting her university degree. In the year 2000 she retired from her governmental work and she started her own business.

Work:

Hessa owns Al Nawras Establishment for exhibition and conferences Arrangements. She was once announced as the head of the businesswomen council in Dubai. From that position she introduced the willingness of UAE women to become businesswomen and encouraged them to do so without fear or any hesitance. She says that she feels working in organizing the exhibitions that represent the UAE makes her responsible about showing the best image of her country. This work is a part of her nationalism feeling and she is ready to do the best of that.

Future:

Hessa is looking forward to establish the best basic foundation for working women in the UAE. She wants the new generation of UAE and Arab girls to look at the future from the best focus and side . She is looking also forward to enlarge her business and make it the best in the world.

Main & Secondary Variables

Are they making a difference ?

In this chapter , its very important to list an analysis for the main and secondary variables that were effective in these women's lives and supported their movement to make the difference in the lives of the coming female generation in the UAE.

Intelligence:

Those females who were chosen for this dissertation are very powerful in their positions and are occupying leading roles in different places. Although they are seen to be very clever, brilliant so their intelligence made them successful. This is not the only reason for their being successful and able to occupy such positions in a very short period of time . This intelligence factor can help them to continue what they started but it couldn't be the only factor that allowed them to study and become independent if they were not backed by other people from their families. Others here stand for males in particular as in the Arab Muslims world males are in charge of their families and they bear their responsibilities thus females can only follow their well and they are not able to grab and opportunity without males' permission .Therefore It's very important to look at those females backgrounds and trace the reasons that supported them and helped them to be so successful in different ways.

Family:

Families in all twenty-six cases were supportive.. Fathers and spouses mainly helped in reinforcing females desire for success and as its very important in the UAE as in many other Arab Muslim world, males still have the right to hinder females movements and stop them from granting success. It is a fact that males are able to change the life and the role of females in this world, so according to what came in these case studies, males had a very important role in their support and helped a lot in making females' success.

Its also clear that in cases where fathers are not available Uncles or older brothers can play the same role and be responsible in their places. Mothers can be responsible but they become so in the last stage. Twenty of the twenty-six women said that the support of their father (or surrogate) was “very important,” and six said that it was “important.” None said that it was not important. The critical role of the father is further supported by the data on the importance of mother’s support. Only ten women said that their mother’s support was “very important,” while sixteen rated it as “important.”

Education:

Education helped females to feel stronger, more liberated and feeling better about themselves .In these case studies, all given examples are university graduates. This factor was very important and obviously provided females self-trust . It can be said that education was one of the most important factors that gave females opportunities to access the world of success and liberty. The support of their families in the beginning plus scholarships given to them by UAE government helped those females to complete their education abroad prior to the existence of the universities in the UAE, and in later years when universities were established in the UAE this helped more females to enroll in higher education and earn their diplomas. As it is seen now females are no longer hindered from gaining their higher education, in spite of some rare cases where families fear that education may delay females chances to get married or allow those females to demand rights that are not yet accepted by those families. In the twenty-six cases shown in this study, seventeen obtained doctorates, four attained Masters degrees and four got Bachelors degrees.

Legal Statues:

We can also notice that married or non married females are enjoying the same level of legal support and encouragement without any discrepancies. It is obvious that unmarried females are able to look for employment and enjoy the benefits of work without depending on being married. In past females were dependent on males such as

fathers, brothers or husbands in everything and they couldn't support themselves if they were single. Changes in the society have made marriage become second in the life of the female as a source of living or financial support compared with earlier years. Previously females were not able to succeed or even dream about being able to be employed and enabled to own their own cars, or have bank accounts without the permission of males. Now they receive more trust concerning their abilities and they can seek different types of positions in a liberal, healthy society. Dr. Fatima Al Kahmeiri, for example, is not married but she was able to travel abroad to study in the College of Medicine and specialize in Forensic Medicine to become the first Emirati female in this field. She has shown how females are able to win the challenge and they can study in the fields that were mobilized only by men.

Work sector and Employment:

Females in this study work in both government and private sectors . They have succeeded in both as they reached leading positions through work and exerted efforts . It could be mentioned that working in the Governmental sector means guarantee of leading positions for UAE citizens, but its not true in many ways as both males and females are also granting success in private sector's businesses and they may win leading positions there too. The case study of Hamda Al Herizi for example showed how she was able to gain profit while she was a child and she worked independently to become a very successful businesswoman in a very rare and adventurous job (selling and growing Caviar). Such a female tells how high intelligence, family support and boldness can be supporting factors and lead to success whether working in governmental or private sector .

Through the different case studies, females are now working in many positions and in different occupations. For the last fifteen years females started to aim towards different types of professions that were not expected to be welcome in them. They previously were only allowed to work as school teachers in females schools and as nurses in hospitals, but given the changes that have occurred in the country which made teaching no more sufficient profession for many of ambitious females, and as the UAE

constitution opened the way for females by imposing the law of equity in employment, UAE females grabbed this opportunity and they merged into different specializations. Its not odd anymore to see a UAE woman as a pilot, scientist, businesswoman and many other special types of sciences. From our sample, seven women have held or are holding high positions in private businesses. Twenty-one have high positions in various government sectors. Twelve women are Department Heads or Senior Officers in Government offices, with one as the Head of a Special Needs Center and another as Head of the Children's and Mothers Care Center. Three are Academic Lecturers in Universities. Two have been or are Cabinet Ministers.

Financial Support:

Females were able to complete their education supported by either families or government. In the given case studies almost all of them were financially supported by the UAE government who opened the doors of opportunities and equally backed females as well as males. Education was encouraged by the government it self and for that they dedicated scholarships for UAE students who desired to complete their studies and enroll in universities abroad.

Marriage and Family

In the secondary variables I also found that 15 females are married out of 26. The married women have an average of 3.2 children. This large number of unmarried females who are successful is a matter that needs to be focused in a society that needs more births and children. There is a need for more marriages and children in order to enlarge the community and support the national base with national citizens. This leaves us with an important fact that in spite of social changes and progress, the existence of social pressure on the educated females is still alive and felt . Many of these females find themselves living without the ambition of creating their own families and this leaves them dedicated only to work.. Those females have declared that they preferred staying unmarried rather than face the challenge of possibly marrying a man who would

prevent them from pursuing further education and work or promotions for leading positions. They had brilliant backgrounds and were able to challenge for better education and leading positions but they couldn't change the fact of social statues and the control of men in the family life . This fear made the larger number of females pause their family lives and prefer being alone than living under pressure or fear.

Conclusions

UAE Females are living currently in a very healthy society that supports women and knowledge. According to an article in UAE interact website it mentioned that women have taken maximum advantage of the opportunities offered by the educational system. This is highlighted by the results of the General Secondary School Certificate 1999, where female students performed better than their male counterparts for the third consecutive year. There have been many female graduates from UAE University and the HCTs in a variety of fields, including the arts, engineering, science, media and communications, and computer technology”.

Emarati females are granting more knowledge, better positions and better lives. The UAE has always supported females’ ambitions by its leaders and the society accordingly and granted them more opportunities than the other women in different countries and societies are getting, in order to prove their abilities and succeed in many different ways. In this study, which is the first of its kind and is shedding a light on a very important topic that needs to be explored and investigated more than just a study , I have given examples through twenty-six case studies that introduced through different interviews in media , and I have given an idea about how they were able to do it by getting supported and this was the reason why did they succeed . Education and further studies was the main essential thread and step that lead females to succeed, and if they were not able to get support in order to complete their studies, they may have followed another line in their lives; who knows where and how they could be now as they may stay at home helpful and losing their efforts that could have been more useful in the society. Education was always a very important factor and fact in the lives of people in the UAE, and for that education came always first in the plans that were set by the Government for development and success.

The government understood that developing the brains of people, would develop latterly in their understanding and looking forward to help their country to lead a prosperous future Educating people in the society equally and without and discrepancy

was the main issue and resolution that the UAE worked for and tried by all means to emphasize its importance in the souls of people. It also tried to light the candle and enlighten the society to learn more about the value of being educated, in two sides for the person himself as an educated figure and for the society in order to help its growth and make it develop in a better way.

The law that obligates people to send their children (males and females) to schools is being revised now in order to oblige children to study for not only six years but to extend that to the end of the high school. This reflects the importance of education and the clever plan that can higher the level of cultured people in the UAE. The other reason in generating success was equity and giving chances for both males and females equally to study and get employed in all types of works and in all positions.

The UAE society is divided into two unequal parts as females number more than males. , However if females were not given equity, the balance would be demolished and the country itself wouldn't advance or develop through the help and support of its people. Females are essential members in the society and they cannot be neglected nor kept in dark in this era.

This is very clear in the UAE policy and my study has tried to shed a light on how females were able to remove obstacles from their way and lead the new generation to get this better kind of living by being brave enough to move ahead in education , knowing that they might be neglected by the internal society that still in many aspects believe that the need for women is to be mothers and housewives only .

I think that the first woman who took the step towards education was brave enough to bet her future as a wife and a mother and follow her ambitions for education and progress . In this dissertation I put the stories of ten of the strongest UAE females as an example while they are not the only or the last ones in this success , but they may reflect their cases and tell us how could they reach their positions through a long way of challenge. There are many others who have already joined the journey of success and

will be very soon called as making a difference in the UAE but they cannot be challenging the first obstacles as the first group of females did .

They are getting success now in an easier way and the society has totally changed its look at what women can and cannot do. This paper is the first of its kind in this field and hopefully it can open the way for other studies to search for different factors that may help others in other places to succeed.

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APPENDIX

Dr.Asma Al Katbi

PhD in Geomorphology

Lecturer at UAE University

Family and Childhood

Asma was born in Ras Al Khaima at the end of the seventies .Most of the Emarati people at that time used to travel and work in Kuwait due to the early discovery of oil there .This was before the rise of the unity in the UAE and before the discovery of oil in the it. Asma says "There was no TV at that time and education was very limited. People's living were very simple and they were closer .Her father Farraj al Kitbi was at Al Omra in Saudi Arabia when he heard the story of Asma Bent Abi Baker , the daughter of Abu Baker Al Siddiq ,the first Caliph in Islam after profit Mohammed (Pbuh). Her uncle learned the story of the brave Asma Bent abu Baker at school so he told his sister about the story and asked her to name her newly born daughter Asma. Dr. Asma was a very delicate daughter who was treated with love from everyone in the family. Her mother used to feed her special milk brought by her father from Kuwait. Once their house which was made of palm trees leaves was on fire and all of the milk was burnt. She spent a very tough time trying to adjust her on other food. She was sent to school and she remembers in grade three when her uncle was reading the newspaper he showed her the picture of Margaret Thatcher the prime minister of Britain at that time and said to her look at this woman she become the prime minister over many other men, why don't you become like her once? Dr. Asma didn't feel any discrimination between her and her brothers in the family and this made her think that she can do better than men and she can look forward for a better future. She studied the elementary education at Zubaida School in Al Meaireed in Ras Al Khaima .She used to study there at night .She still remembers the early mornings in their farm where the dew falls on her bed cover and she enjoys feeling of cold weather which made her love the mornings in Ras Al Khaima.

University

The nature of the land and earth in Ras Al Khaima which was surrounded by mountains and valleys attracted her to become the first UAE woman to study geomorphology .It is the science of earth and this study explained her feelings towards her land .

Geomorphology is the science that study the earth surface shapes such as sandy hills and the reasons behind their formation. Geology is a different science then geomorphology because she doesn't study the formation and foundation of mountains but she learns about them as a background for her researches.

Dr.Asma childhood lead her for many questions about nature .She started asking herself many questions about the causes of the mountains, why are they formed in Ras Al Khaima, why the sand is made in this shape? She used to enjoy and like all scientific specialties but she couldn't complete her studies in one of them due to her study at night school where she was allowed to study literature subjects only. When Dr. Asma joined the UAE University in the middle of eighties, people in the UAE were used to see females graduate from universities and there were no obstacles in her way. She looked at the Geography specialty as the rescue subject which will introduce her to the world and open the doors in front of her to learn more about it.

Work

As many other UAE females , Dr.Asma worked as a school teacher .Her feeling that being a teacher wouldn't help her ambitions made her seek further education and look forward to continue her studies. She started researching at that time and she can never forget her tears when she wrote her first research in English language and her tutor returned it with many comments that made her cry and feel very sorry for her wasted time. She felt that her work wasn't successful but the tutor asked her to leave the room and continue crying outside. When she returned to the room he clarified to her the truth and that his job as a tutor was to trace her work and lead her to discover any weakness in order to tighten it and write it in a better way. From that day she started to write good

researches with fluent English .Her researches and studies are now published in different important scientific magazines worldwide. In her researches she is trying to explore the small issues that were neglected by the very famous and great scientists, who were surprised because she thought about these very tiny issues .After granting her PhD in 1997, she started her work as a lecturer in UAE university. Her first day there returned her to remember her first day in school and felt the same .She was very happy and filled with ambitions but she felt that her desire to become distinctive exceeds the fact of being just a lecturer at the university. She is one of only three females in Geography Collage and she is happy with the cooperation between males and females staff in it. She finds some competence between the teaching staff but she knows that it is needed in order to present better work and results.

Future

Dr.Asma is nowadays practicing essay writing in magazines and newspapers. She writes columns and she is expressing her inner ambitions on paper. Her unique style in writing represents her love to earth and the country .She uses her geomorphology words and meanings to relate them to life and other issues in the society such as “The moon” and its effect on the earth . Dr.Asma resembles a very ambitious woman who utilized the nature and environment around her and aimed towards a very new study that made her the first female in it. Dr. Asma estimates the changes in today university students and looks at them as digging a big gap between them and yesterdays students. She says that university students at present are affected by the consuming culture .They negotiate their teachers in order to get more grades and marks as if they are negotiating with a shopkeeper , while students in the past used to negotiate and search all the time for more education and data from their teachers.

Amal Bal Houli

Psychiatric Specialist

Family and Childhood

She was born in Dubai in Bur Saeed district. She still remembers the enjoyment of playing in sand at that time and how she felt in an open minded environment that made her enjoy her freedom. She didn't care about studying and being a school child because she wanted to spend her time in playing, her enjoyment in life. Her mother was very strict on her and she used to force her to study. Amal used to enjoy reading all types of books but she hated the feeling of being obligated to studying and sitting for the end of year examinations. Amal remembers that she didn't care a lot for games of any type but she was passionate about climbing on trees, walls, running after camels and entering water drains. She didn't like playing with dolls as other females used to do. She says: "May be I was attached to boys games more because I was the only female born between males. Males were very strict when they play and they always refused to allow girls join their teams. Girls and boys were tested before they can join any boys group and the test was to examine her strength and ability to act and play like a boy." Amal cannot remember her first school that was located in Bur Saeed area where she was born. She went to Aisha Intermediate school in Bur Dubai and then was transferred to Amna Preparatory school when she reached the third preparatory class. She completed her high school in the same school.

When Amal was in the intermediate school she used to lead her colleagues in uprisings. Although she cannot remember the reasons or the causes for these uprisings but she remembers how she felt at that time and she led the uprisings enforced by her desire to be a leader and not for any political reason. She admits that she loved being noticed by others. She says also that she was trying to rebel against her family authority. She started to be interested in politics after her family moved from Dubai to Sharjah when she was in high school and she started to launch her interests as an intellectual person. Her father was an open minded person and he allowed her to say her opinions and

express herself. He was a merchant and he was most of the time absent, traveling from country to another .He gained a lot of experience and knowledge from his navigations .The other important thing that helped Amal to become very initiative and strong is being born after tow males and her father was an old man at that time trying to make his daughter happy and allowing her to do what she wants to do .He trusted her and that trust made her try to be better and more educated in order to make her father happier. Amal says that her mother had a big role in her life and she gained all of her higher education now because of her. She says:” My mother used to summarize my lessons and make me memorize them .I wanted to enjoy my childhood but she was looking forward at my career and future. My father used to encourage my feeling as a child but my mother wanted me to study ,study and study”. Now Amal advices families to let their children play more and she thinks that this time is not replaceable so let them do what they want. I discovered that I was an intelligent person and I become the first when I wanted to get more grades. I think this was related to my wish. When Amal was in high school she used to write in a very popular magazine at that time”Al Azmena Al Arabia” .She used to sign her essays by her real name in opposition to what the other females used to do at that time. When that magazine was shut she started to draw as a replacement for her bad feelings towards this closing .

University

At this level she selected Education and psychology as a majoring study in the UAE university. She felt that this specialty could cope with her personality more. She graduated with 37 graduates and they were the fourth batch graduates from the university. She resumed her writing hobby at that time .She wrote critical essays and she focused in her writings at criticizing the Egyptian very well known writer “Nawal Al Sadawi” books who was always a feminist against the society and trying to raise up many issues that affected females there .All of her lecturers encouraged her and said that she was structuring strong and tightly knotted essays.

Work

After graduation she got employed directly with all of her colleagues .They used to go as one group to apply for jobs and set for employment tests looking forward at getting employment together and in the same place. She describes her relationship with these colleagues as a tight and loving relationship. They used to live together in one hostel at the University hostel and they cooperated with each other .If one of the girls was sick all of the others used to serve her, bring her the lessons that she missed and food. She is still communicating with the same group until now and she describes this relationship as a very wonderful one.

Amal was employed as a psychologist in the Ministry of Education. She worked faithfully for 18 years in Governmental schools but she finally become fed up in the last year from the new employed teachers who used to quarrel and find reasons for teasing each others. Amal says that Sheikha Aisha Bent Mohammed Al Qassimi was the pivot of relaxation and as she was the deputy for the head of the educational zone in Sharjah she had a great effect on the other teachers to follow her way in working hard and giving her time to her work.

The UAE society wasn't open nor understanding how can the job of a psychologist help them or the students at that time .All of the psychologist in the educational zones were expatriates and people used to say that they cannot understand our community issues. Amal knows that the UAE society differs from other Arab Mediterranean societies .When she started her work she was shocked by the community views towards psychology which was accumulated from the other expatriate employees. We were not enough at that time as every one of us had to work in 30 schools in different Emirates to cover their needs. Our role is very obvious ,says Amal , we could focus and pull out many hidden issues that were not looked at before .Some of the students who had problems used to hide them in front of expatriates psychologists or be ashamed from expressing the issues. Amal declares that students problems at that time didn't change a lot in these days .

Future

Amal was selected as the under-secretary in the Ministry of Culture, youth and community Development in charge of Community Development sector. She is trying to make others understand that her work will not be limited to UAE locals but she will try to cover all community issues including expatriates residing in the UAE. The main target for her is to preserve the national identity through conducting researches and studies on the samples that had problems. Her husband is a great help to her .He offered to retire from his work in the Ministry of Labour in order to allow her follow her work but she refused that and she didn't want him to sacrifice his work to relief her. She is very happy in her new position and she wants to prove that she is able to fill the place as much as she can.

Dr.Kholoud Al Mansouri

Lecturer at al Itihad University in Ras Al Khaima –UAE

Family and childhood

Kholoud was born in Ras Al Khaima , one of the seven Emirates in the UAE. She went to study her primary education to Al Meaireed School. Schools were mixed as boys and girls used to study in the same classes from grade one to grade four. She says that there was a very enthusiastic competition between males and females students at that time .One of her colleagues was Sheikh Omar Ben Saqr al Qasimi (Son of Ras l Khaima ruler) who is now the head of the private department for his highness Ras Al Khaima ruler. There were also many other colleagues in her class such as Mahmoud Mata , Abdel Monem Al Manaie and some other females from well-known families there .She remembers some of her teachers who are still residing in the UAE .When she moved to the preparatory school she was separated with her female colleagues from the boys and many of the girls got married at that time .Kholoud remembers that her family used to call her as a doctor when she was young .She received many gifts that resembled the doctors tools .She loved to be a surgeon and she was fond of politics but she didn't enroll in any of these specialties. At that time when the UAE rises Kholoud was still in her preparatory school. She says that the unity made them happier as they started to get free meals in schools and the country offered them many expeditions to travel .She went to Egypt and her sister went to Iraq. That time as Kholoud remembers was the best time for them .She remembers also that schools were a place for many participations .Students was more aware about social and political incidents in the world. They were more attached to community and they used to be more active in presenting their opinions and ideas about what is going on in the Arab world. Kholoud finished her preparatory education and moved to Al Sabahia Secondary school . They were only seven students at that time in the secondary school .These students are now

occupying leading positions in the UAE but Kholoud is the only one who managed to complete her education and grant the PhD . Kholoud graduated from high school in 1976 with a distinction grade as she was the fourth in her grade between all of the high school graduates in the UAE. She was supposed to be the first but she forgot to answer one question in French Language subject and this ruined her hope to be the first .She achieved the first level over the northern Emirates and this helped her to prove her ability .during her education she was awarded with many rewards such as the ideal student reward ,and the scientifically distinction reward.

University

Kholoud joined work in the Ministry of Education after getting her high school certificate as a mathematics teacher for the first and second grades .She says that because of her distinction in the high school she could work as a teacher for primary school students. She knew that these levels need a very special qualification as they were the basic important years in the life of the students but she was able to teach them well and to give them the proper education at that time. Kholoud admits that teaching nowadays requires a lot of experience and specialization. The teacher should be prepared and qualified more than before . Then she become a class teacher for grade two .She moved to become a kindergarten teacher when she registered her name to continue her postgraduate education in the university. She went to the UAE university and studied English Language there ,to graduate in 1984 with a b grade.

Work

After her graduation she went back for teaching in the preparatory level until she was promoted as a senior teacher in the secondary level. In 1993 she become as an inspector and she went back to continue her diploma in the field of teaching and managing the English Language. In 2002 she granted her masters and PhD from Britain because she felt that the educational system at Britain was very deep and meets her desires. She didn't go for high education in order to grant a certificate but

she wanted to gain more knowledge and qualification through studying. She worked in the Higher colleges of Technology in the English Language Teachers Preparation Program. In 2004 she joined Al Itihad University as a lecturer and Director for ESL Teaching Program.

Kholoud loves teaching according to her .she says that she adore teaching and she cannot imagine herself being any thing else but a teacher. She wears a badge that holds her feeling towards teaching .

She wrote on this badge:” I am proud to be a teacher”. She wants everyone to know the importance of teaching in her life and as a profession and she remembers the time when she was given the first chance to become a principal deputy assistant but she refused the position because she wanted to stay as a teacher .She remembers the incident that made her refuse to work in a leading position in one of the organizations .Kholoud went to the Ministers office at that time in order to submit her application for that administrative leading job. When the Minister opened his office door and found out that one of the applicants was his teacher her went directly to the teacher who taught him before 35 years and stood shaking hands with him for a long time. Khuloud insisted after that to stay as a teacher and not to leave her job .She was chosen as the oldest teacher by the teachers association.

Future

Dr. Kholoud is called “The conference girl” as she has attended many conferences in her life . She attends all of the conferences as a participant because she doesn’t want her attendance to be only as a listener. She is married and she has three daughters. All of her daughters are holders of university degree and they work in leading positions. Lately Dr.Kholoud was chosen by Who’s Who publication that contains 57 thousand international and universal persons. Her name and her CV were listed in this publication which was established in 1907 in the USA and has introduced more than 57 thousand famous people in it. It has included many people from around 215 countries who have done distinguished services for humanity and their countries. These people differ between politicians leaders , scientists ,businessmen ,engineers and teachers .Dr.Kholoud explains how she was pleased to

be included in this publication because the aim of this was allowing the world to use and benefit from the experiences of those persons .She says that she has added the certificate and the trophy to her many other certificates and trophies . She is fluent in speaking Arabic ,English French and Ordo languages and she is ambitious to learn Chinese because she feels it's the language of the new coming era because in contains many words and its very flexible in accepting the enclosure of many new meanings and words in it. She loves poetry and literature because it's the means of communication between people .Dr.Kholoud thinks that today's generation is different and she is proud of them but we need to understand the changes that happen to the world and to change our concepts towards those new people who are living in different and new environment. Dr.Kholoud is looking at the future of teaching and education as a very promising field and she wants to be able to plant something in this world through this profession. She wants to teach her students how to be honest and she says that teaching English as a second language needs a good curriculum and a qualified teacher in order to allow the students gain the language in the best manner.

Dr.Bahjat Al Yousef

Assistant Manager in Dubai Girls Higher Technology Colleges

Family and Childhood

Dr.Bahjat who was the head of IT section in the colleges was promoted to the position of assistant manager in the same colleges refers her success to the previous healthy family life that she raised up in .Her father who traveled a lot knew that education and knowledge are the best future investments. He moved with this believe and he gave all his children the thread to walk on the same road and gain more knowledge in their lives. She says” We were following his path in the time when going to the university was just a dream for us .”

She says that although the encouraging environment was existing but her trip in education wasn't so easy. She had to study in different countries while being married and a mother was another burden on her.Dr.Bahjat believes that work is another responsibility and being a PhD holder doesn't mean that it's only a prestigious addition in her life but it needs more effort in order to serve the community and education itself. Dr.Bahjat was born in “Al Ras” Area in Dubai .She started her primary school years in Al Khansa school ,then to Al Zahra in Sharjah , returning to Amna Bent Wahab preparatory school in Dubai and finally Al Ittihad Secondary School . She went after that to the USA for her university education.

University

“I was a lucky female “ , Dr. Bahjat admits. She says that her family encouraged education .All of her brothers went to university and her elder sister went to Kuwait University before her. She didn't find any obstacle in front of her .She had to choose between studying in the UAE University or traveling abroad . She decided to select USA and there she was enrolled in Computer Engineering College at North Carolina University .Then she continued her masters at Cardiff University in Wales .Finally Dr.

Bahjat went to Redding University and granted her PhD in computer software engineering in the year 2002. She was the first UAE who studied this field and granted a higher education certificate in it.

Dr. Bahjat was a postgraduate student while she was married and a mother of three .She says that it wasn't very easy to join all of the parts together but it needed a lot of balancing that allows things to run smoothly. Her husband and her family were very cooperative that she could manage everything and succeed in her studies.

Work

Her first employment was at the Ministry of Electricity and Water. She used to travel three times a week to Abu Dhabi but she had to leave it and travel to Kuwait because she was married to a Kuwaiti national .She worked in Kuwait Municipality in the position of program developer manager .She was able to achieve the first program in the Gulf Area when she installed all of lands,roads ,telephone and electricity data in the IT and they transferred their dealings from papers to be electronically. She stayed for four years in Kuwait while her husband was a Masters postgraduate student .They left together to Britain and studied in the same university while her children enrolled in British schools there .Her husband is holding a PhD in Energy.

Future

Dr. Bahjat looks at education in the UAE from a very critical way .She says that the UAE basic education is very traditional and doesn't agree with students talents and doesn't allow them to be independent thinkers. "We need a comprehensive revision for education in order to develop our children's personalities" Says Dr.Bahjat. She added that children need to understand and accept the surrounding world , trust his abilities and become aware of his thoughts and express them .She mentioned the educational curriculum in the UAE as not helping students to grow their personalities and it doesn't encourage them to be innovative. Our students need to modify their behaviors and be able to organize their time and know their desires. The responsibility in this needs the help of everybody. Students come to the colleges without having any idea about their

studies or future. Students in the past used to complain from lack of money but they were more confidently in themselves .

Dr. Bahjat is planning always to develop in her work. She says that we need to learn the market requirements first and then we can prepare our students accordingly. She says that females students are equal with males. They travel to work and get training from different countries. She knows that the mission to prepare good workers is very difficult but they are trying their best to help many graduates to find jobs .They were able to achieve a number of 82% employment for their students and this means they are doing well.

Dr. Bahjat is looking forward to see more UAE employments in the private sector. She cares for nationalism and to allow UAE females and males find a good job for each of the. She says that it is okay if any student would dream of being a manager but they have to work hard and not to think about easy life . Knowing the others in the world is the best thing that happened to us by globalization. Her father who was a merchant traveled in many countries and places and that's why he was an open minded father. The past wasn't always a happy time and I believe that the real strong person who trusts his mind and abilities is not scared of globalization and be open to other civilizations. I have many friends worldwide but I am proud of my country and there is no conflict between this and my attachment to our traditions.

Dr. Bahjat had a dream that couldn't happen. She says:" I had always a dream to become a veterinarian because I love animals and nature. But my study was very different than what I had as a dream. I don't see this contradicting with my dream because I believe that technology is not a tough thing and if we can use it very well it can be a big and a good help to the environment.

Maith Ben Adi

Engineer-Executive Director for Roads and Transportation Authority in Dubai

Family and childhood

She was born as the middle sister in her family. Her parents were opened minded people and they never stop in the face of their daughters .They encouraged them to study and graduate and they made things easier for them in order to prove their abilities. All of her brothers and sisters were clever and they were distinguished in their schools. From early childhood Maitha knew that education is a very important task for her ,so she used to grant high marks and she was distinguished in her school. She loved learning sciences more than literature. She wanted to enter the field of medicine and she was on the honor list n her school because she was fond of learning mathematics and physics. Her elder sister wanted also to study medicine like her and Maitha looked forward to finish her high school and follow her sister to Kuwait.

University

She graduated from the high school with a high grade 94,5 .At that time females were traveling abroad to study in different universities . Maitha wanted to follow her sister in Kuwait but her papers were late. She didn't want to lose one year waiting for the next year in order to be registered in the university and in the same time her high school certificate would be considered as an old certificate and she will not be accepted to study in the college of medicine, so she accepted the alternate choice and went to study engineering. She was fond of studying and learning so she didn't let that matter her and she continued her university education happily.

Work

After graduation she applied for a job at the Dubai Municipality. She was called for an interview by the roads section and they appointed her as an engineer in the scope of road designing.

Maitha became the head of the section in a very short time because she was a hard worker who loved her job and dedicated herself to improve and promote the section. She proved in a very short time her ability to be a leader and her efforts at work. There were many exclamation marks at that time because women were rare in that field. It was a new experience for employees there to see a woman heading a road department. By time people started to accept the idea and to look at Maitha as one of the employees there. All of the group members who work under her directions are helping her now and they are very proud of working under her section and guidance. Maitha says that the section productivity is satisfactory for her and she finds them very active and helpful. Maitha also explains how the look in the UAE differs nowadays towards women than previous days. Women who worked in the UAE used to work within certain specialties and professions but now they work in many other places and they are experts in many different professions. Engineering subject and specialty was dominated by males in the UAE university because people always believe that engineering is a male's job. Its formula and requirements requires engineers to visit the sites in anywhere and at anytime of the day and this job would be very difficult and tough on females who were not able to leave their homes without getting a permission from any male member in the family. Fortunately nowadays females are entering this specialty and they are very successful in it. Maitha thinks that any woman who chooses any field of study that is attached to difficulties must be strong and able to accept everything in it. She says also that a woman can show the others her ability to become a leader and she can prove this by hard working and knowing her job very well. The biggest difficulty that faced Maitha was making males trust her and accept the fact that their leader is a woman. She started to gain their trust when she treated them in a very democratic way and she delegated powers. She is controlling the place, people and her work but she is encouraging them always and making them feel that they are members in a group with her. Maitha believes in making the qualified employees in her section love the place and she treats them in the way that makes them attached to the place.

Future

Maitha is the executive director for the Road and Transportation Authority. She deserved to be appointed to this position by Sheikh Mohammed Ben Rashid because she was very active and everybody testified how faithful she was in her work. In Maitha's section nowadays you can see many UAE female trainees who are increasingly joining the work as engineers and trainees. Maitha says that since 1991 four plans were launched and they are working from that time .Maitha is a good examples for the new generations because nothing stopped her from success in a new field. Her strategy is recognized and she is a responsible person .She travels a lot and she expresses her pleasure to find the people in many other countries talking about the success of the UAE and how fast this small country become one of the advanced countries worldwide. Maitha says that many traffic and road new designs and solutions are found in the UAE and they are always considered and followed . Many other countries come to the UAE to see the new developments in it and to copy the success in their countries. Maitha talks about the crowded streets in Dubai in a very optimism way and says that many other countries faced the same crowd in time of their development and while they were being built ,but Dubai is working to solve it and there are many projects running for that .Maitha talks about the how Dubai is able to invest in future , and the projects that are in hand now are planning for the future of a country with a huge economy and tourists numbers.

Najla Al Awadi

Dubai Media –Chief Executive

Head of One TV Channel

Family and Childhood

I was born in a family that encourages equity between males and females. This is how our life moved and this is why I felt my self as someone who is able to do the best I had the same rights as my brothers and was supposed to fulfill the same obligations and duties as my brothers had to . This filled me with confidence and the ability to turn difficulties down and achieve success . I was able to make successful achievements in my life because my family trusted me and helped me to be confident about myself . My father taught me that religion is the basic of life. He also taught me that I must work my mind in everything that I want to do. I inherited patience and optimism from my mother so I can face life problems .I think this was the secret of my success and the success of my family which is very cooperative and tight together until today. When I was a child I loved reading .I had interest in reading horror and classical stores. My family described me as a closed person because I spent most of my time reading in my room .When I grew up I aimed to read books about human rights and social fairness.

University

The feeling of liberty atmosphere that I have grown up within it made the idea of my traveling to study in America accepted by my family. I used to visit the states when I was a child as my father was studying there so when I went there to continue my university studies I didn't feel strange but the Americans thought that it's a strange thing to see an Emarati female studying in their universities .The American citizen is very closed towards himself. He is more interested about his land and he doesn't care for the other people in other lands .I tried to make Americans learn more about the

UAE and some of our Arabic and Islamic issues .I used to participate in all of the activities and functions celebrated there and I headed the Muslim Students club in the university. Some of the male student who were members in this club refused to be lead by a woman but I tried to overcome this issue by proving my ability in leading the group and I wanted them to understand that the position wasn't my aim as much as I thought about activating the Muslims students in the university in order to let other people there learn more about our religion and our major issues.

I started by studying economics but then I found my self more interested in studying history. My ambitions was to continue my higher studies in the field of law but I preferred to return to the UAE and practice law before studying .

Work

When I returned back to my country I felt that media was the best path that would help me express my opinions more and to change the societies look at the woman .I wanted to help women learn and be aware of their rights so I joint the Dubai economical TV Channel .My job was very interesting and I used to stay for a very long time trying to know more about the media and its methods .I worked in many sections and practiced all of the media works .Dubai Media Establishment was my new career after I left that Economical TV Channel. I thought always that I have something in my mind that would benefit my experience. My friends didn't want me to work as an office assistant for the development consultant in the Media Establishment but I thought that this job will give me what I want . I learnt more about media and then I become one of the founders of Dubai One TV. I worked as a deputy for the Channel president but lately I become the president.

Dubai one TV is the first foreign channel within the Arabic and global level .Sheikh Mohammed Ben Rashid had a vision that says if you don't lead your work to the distinction then don't do it. I think I lead the channel to be number one here and around. I faced in the beginning of my working life with some employees who didn't want to improve the workplace or they didn't accept any change .I also met many males who didn't like to be rolled by a female and they didn't accept the fact that a woman is their leader .But I think because I focused on my work and succeeded in doing it so all

of these obstacles vanished by time and the only thing that is left the ability to innovate ,create and move to the future .

Future

There are many UAE distinctive females who had clear visions and they are able to create and be very innovative in their work but some of the university curriculums don't help them to be qualified to work in the field of media .This happens because the curriculum are not furnished with the practical part .I think the practical part is the basic for any student who desires to study media .Some females cannot work because their families don't allow them to do that and they don't accept to come out in the visual media .My relatives were astonished and rejected the idea of my working in TV but they couldn't of course forbid me from that because my parents trust me and they do believe that I have a role to serve my society and that females must also do something for their courtiers .The UAE females are able to succeed and do everything because our wise rulers helped them and supported them. Now they are educated and able to do everything very well.

I am very happy to be also a member in Dubai Women Development Establishment .I think that when rulers trust my work then I am very eager to make them confident about my deserving this trust . I am also a member in Sheikh Mohammed Ben Rashid Program for Leaders Development and a member in Young Arab Leaders .I try to call some universities to provide our students with university scholarships .I feel very happy when I can get an approval from any university .Our students who continue their studies will be very useful for our country.

I am proud of my self .Popularity and being famous has taken a lot of my time and I spend most of my time away from my family .My younger brothers and sisters are as my children and I love to spend time with them. I am not filled with pride and I am still the same girl who loves life and funny .I wish that many girls can follow my way and try to do something for the benefit of our loving country.

Ameera Al Shaibani

Head of Field and librarian researching division in Zayed Senior Establishment for minors affairs care.

Family and childhood

Ameera's father the late Mohammed Shareef Al Shaibani was a poet and a historian .He wrote many books and he used to sit in Sheikhs Majlis in the UAE and Qatar. Ameera says that she could rarely see her father at that time and when she has a chance to sit with him she feels anxious about this .Her mother was very close to Ameera and her brothers .She was a very kind hearted person and she taught her children how to be kind , loving and how to depend on themselves .Ameera's mother refused to allow any of her children stay absent from school because she admired education and believed that this was the weapon that will help all her children gain peace and good positions in the future.

Ameera studied her elementary schools at Qatar until grade four. She returned with her family to the UAE and she enrolled in Um Ammar School at Abu Dhabi where she continued her education and she graduated her high school from there.

University

Ameera studied sociology at the UAE university because she wanted to be closer to people and give her services in helping the others She was one of the second batch graduates .She loved sociology and thought that this will make her able to understand the society problems and be able to solve as many as she can .Her family encouraged her to continue her higher education but she was ambitious to start her work .

Work

In 1982 she started her work at the handicapped rehabilitating centre that is related to the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs . She was one of this centre founders .She was

gradually moving from one position to another as she was the head of professional qualifying section ,then the deputy for the Director reaching the position pf the director of the centre. The centre needed a lot of budget in order to be equipped by many tools and machines .Their budget at that time didn't allow them to buy any of the needed tools so she opened the doors for donations and she didn't feel ashamed of doing that because she wanted money for the children with special needs. She received a wide approval from different and many companies..Many companies donated money and some others bought the required equipments for the centre. Ameera founded later on the Special Olympics for mental retirements children and she organized local and other foreign champions. She founded the UAE special Olympics committee and she was previously the director of the special UAE Olympics Union .For twenty four years Ameera has given all her time at the Zayed Senior Establishment for minors affairs care in order to serve the community and specially the handicapped people in it. She has adapted all of their issues and exerted her efforts to develop and provide a healthy sports and social special environment that suites their circumstances .She worked half of her life in Abu Dhabi handicapped Centre and she is still following their issues insisting that there should be a sports club for handicapped in Abu Dhabi .

Ameera's efforts were successful when His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Ben Zayed Al Nahyan the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and the Senior Leader for the Armed Forces has awarded her Abu Dhabi Medal .She deserved this award as her busy practical trip through her work ,participations and charity donations allowed her to receive this award and to be one of the people who served their country faithfully and loyally.

Future

Ameera worked with the scouts association since she was a child .she become a member in the association when she grew up because she wanted to develop and form her personality in this field. Being a member in the Red Crescent wasn't a strange thing for Ameera because she had a long experience in the field and her ability to work for long time allowed her to donate her time and effort for the service of the society. Her husband was always a great help for her and he encouraged her by sharing with her looking after their children and giving her a hand in all of their life issues.

Ameera thinks that her work in charity and social affairs associations has added to her personality and experience a lot. She learned patience and her personality was formed by conferences many workshops and different training courses that she participated in them inside and outside the UAE. She met many different people and experiences from other countries who own bigger and wider experiences in this field. This has developed her mental and practical skills. Ameera's decision to work with and for the special needs was a bold and very difficult decision but she says that she felt they were the most people who need and deserve attention from others in the society .She was able to touch this need when she used to visit one of the establishments in order to apply their study in the social service module.. She loves giving and she is busy with their issues . Ameera has left working in the centre for special needs but she is still working for the special needs affairs and she is still holding their issues as the first interest in her life. Now she is working for the minors affairs since 1994 when the establishment was still newly founded .Ameera was the only employee with another female colleague. They worked together in the field of social researching as they used to conduct researches on the minors families their living, problems and how to look after them and after their money. Ameera says that their work depends on social questions that investigate some special subjects in order to introduce solutions for such problems. This work needed them to go through a long procedure in order to make families trust them and answer their questions. Ameera suffered a lot in order to gain the trust and confidence of families but gradually she managed to grant this trust and to help them by solving the problems. Ameera thinks that the society is blamed for being guilty in looking at the special needs people as an ignored category instead of helping them .She wants their centers to be equipped with every machine required to help them .She is looking forward to establish a sports club in Abu Dhabi similar to the clubs available in Dubai , sharjah and at Al Ain. Ameera was nominated for Abu Dhabi prize by everyone who knows her .When she was told that she was a winner she felt very pleased and proud because she knew that she will be awarded this reward by His Highness Abu Dhabi crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Ben Zayed al Nahyan .Her tears dropped on her face because this made her feel that what she did was appreciated.

Dr.Hajar Al Hosani

Head of Child & Mother's Department at Health & Medical Services

Family and childhood

Since she was a school child ,she was born with a leading personality that allowed her to become a decision maker and to be one of the powerful characters in her family .In her childhood she used to act as a teacher and tried to explain to her colleagues all types of difficult lessons that they couldn't understand during class . She with her entire desire and choice used to form groups of students in her school and teach them mathematics and other science subjects. She laughs when she remembers this and says joyfully , “I had the initiative spirit that allowed me to become a leader since then. I felt that and I followed my senses to become a real leader in the future. This spirit was planted inside me by the late Sheikh Zayed Ben sultan AlNahyan, the founder of the UAE and his wife Sheikha Fatema Bent Mubarak.” Says Dr.Hajar. Dr.Hajar admits that they backed the UAE females and they gave females the power to become recognized figures in the Community and this happened as we are witnessing women's success as a reality now .Hajar had a strong will and she was formed from her birth to success in her life because she wanted this success and because she was patient enough to do that , to believe in her self , to trust her abilities and to find herself proving what she only believed in at the beginning . Since she was a child , she drew her targets in her mind ,planned them and she knew that she will reach the target of her dream if she knew it .

University

Since Hajar was aware of how life is running and how people live and behave in an early age , this wisdom and knowledge gave her the best practice of experience needed for any person to move in his life smoothly and it also helped her to take the decision to travel to Cairo in the year 1979 to continue her university studies in the field of

Medicine. This field was a very difficult science and she decided to go for that .She was one of thirteen students who went to Cairo at that age and time.

She enrolled in this field and specialized in Dermatology and child's care .She wasn't depending on studying the given curriculum but she didn't stop searching, reading and investigating for knowledge after she granted her certificate and fulfilled her education requirements That ,according to her was the beginning of learning and going for further education .She knew that she didn't want to limit her knowledge in education and the granted degree only but she wanted more and become thirsty to grant the best of education. Hajar says that she is still learning continuously in order to grant a diploma in communication. While Dr. Hajar was bearing many other responsibilities in the same time in her life she didn't allow this to stand as a obstacle in front of her ambitious but it moved her to learn and depend more on the knowledge and abilities that she had . She loves reading historical and documentary books and she loves to read about the older times when life was more stable than today and when things were clearer and very obvious. She believes that the past was the best time for living compared with this time and the unknown coming future. Hajar looks at today as a very fast running age that cannot be followed sometimes and this makes people feel sometimes very tired and depressed. She loves her memories, old days, dreams and her various readings that opened the books of life in front of her eyes.

Work

After graduation Hajar returned to the UAE in the year 1985 .There were elections at that time to form committees in the Women's union in Abu Dhabi .She was nominated and was elected as the head of the health committee in the Women's Union .From that time she started her charity work in the field of Women and child care. This work was a decision made by her to help others and give them a hand for a better living .For three years she worked in this charity work along with her work as a doctor. Then she left to Britain to grant her specialization in the field of Dermatology .She Granted her masters degree in one year and completed her studies for the PHD in the field of Child Care in Scotland .After completion of this study and graduation Hajar returned to the

UAE in order to establish the Central Department for Women and Child Care in 1991 .After one year the Health Centers department was also established and she became the director of it in 1992 until 1996. Hajar gave her time to work as her working day starts at five in the morning .This early timing was her way to say that she loved her work and adored what she was working for .Her life ran in the same manner for a long time and she is still as active as she used to be .She entered the world of charity working when she started to visit the isolated districts in the UAE in order to teach people their and advise them about their health.

Future

Now Dr.Hajar is in charge of supervision over the elementary health program that she has established and supervising the program of newborns early diagnosis. Dr.Hajar Al Hosany has founded the principals of child and mother health in the UAE. She is still until today wakes up early in the morning to see the city sleeping .She walks on the Sea shore (Corniche) and thinks about life before she starts her busy working day. She participated in many campaigns in Kosovo and Iraq and she is still donating her time for charity works.

Dr.Hajar believes that knowledge is endless. She keeps searching and following the new researches that would make her aware of life .

She thinks that UAE females must think about studying medicine to serve their country and to help people be healthier .

Dr. Jamila Bin Adi

Intrinsic Medicine Consultant –Speculum

Family and early Childhood

Jamila Bin Adi was born in Kuwait at the time when Emarati people used to live and work there because the oil wasn't yet discovered in the UAE .She was one of three girls and two boys in a family of five children She remembers that they were very cooperative and tied to each other , very loving and attached to each other as members of one family because her parents encouraged the relation between their children . The father was employed in Kuwait and he used to spend a long time outside home so the children stayed all the day after school with their mother and become more related to her.The mother as Jamila remembers was in charge of taking care of the children and raising them up. She was dedicated to her family and children and this made her touch their lives and leave her fingerprint on them. During school years that started in Kuwait, Jamila and her family returned to the UAE when there was a way to live in a country that was newly rising after the oil discovery .She was very brilliant and that made her distinguished in her studies as she used to participate in many co-curricula activities and was able to spend time out of studying. Jamila was a very talented child in drawing but this talent was left behind as her parents –like all other parents in that time-looked at arts as a waste of time and energy and they encouraged her to study in Medicine .She was told that a talented person is the one who can study in Medicine and win a degree in that and her family convinced her not to allow the drawing hobby become a dream and her academic specialty. Jamila remembers how women were different at that time as they were only concerned about their houses and children. Until a very near period of time women started to go out for work in the UAE but only in limited types of jobs as teachers and doctors only. Recently women are occupying many and more important positions and they are granted equity in many ways with males.

University

She went to Kuwait for her university education. She was sharing UAE students a hostel and she remembers how enjoyable and cooperative the 30 students in that hostel were. She admits that the smaller group numbers in dorms could make the relationships between students better and warmer. Many of her dorms partners were from different specialties while some of them were studying Medicine as she did. They shared comments, studying and worked together many times. Jamila says that studying in Medicine specialty made her stop drawing and she couldn't be able to practice any other activity. She started her day in attending lectures, then training and after that she had to study and prepare for the next day studies and researches. The UAE students didn't work as other students may do because the UAE government was sponsoring their studies and they were in charge of paying all expenses and installments. Jamila dream was to become a pediatrician but then she found that the site work is very difficult and she couldn't face a sick child .

Work

After graduation Jamila wanted to rest for a while as her long and intensive studying in the medicine college consumed her energy while preparation for the graduation test made her very tired and unable to go further. Her family was very supportive and they encouraged her to continue her studies abroad .She was able to get training in the UAE hospitals and then she thought about studying in Germany. Traveling abroad for a young girl was a very tuff experience but things become easier after a while and she completed her studies successfully. She got her degree in Intrinsic Medicine and Speculum after seven years of studying. She first her first difficulty when she her specialty was very rare in the UAE between females and is still rare until today. This specialty is making her very pressed and busy because women prefer to be checked and treated by a female. She says that the number of male doctors in this field makes the job distribution between her and males unfair as she has to be responsible for a bigger number of patients because the females' doctors' number is smaller.

Future

Dr. Jamila felt very relieved after achieving her ambitions in becoming a very active person in the field of her study but she keeps looking at her achievements in order to evaluate them. Her working day that starts from 7:30 and ends at 2:30 in the afternoon is not the only thing that she is practicing. She is not only concerned about her medical job but she is the head of the continuous learning centre at Rashid Hospital in Dubai. Both tasks need her effort and her ability to give both fair balance of attention and work .She returns back home very exhausted but she has to take care of her small family which consists of two sons and her husband. She says that she has to keep learning and studying as medicine field should be always researched and new things are rising up vastly She is looking forward to encourage more UAE females to enter this field and fill the many vacant places in Intrinsic Medicine and Speculum.

Dr. Jamila is one of the courageous UAE females who took a step towards a difficult and tuff job. She was thinking about other females who need a woman to take care of them and treat them and she gave her time for others . The most important thing in any job is not the benefit for the person but the benefit that he or she can give to others around them .Dr.Jamila has proven her decent feelings and her donation of effort and time for the service of her country and the people in it.

Dr.Souad Lutfi

Specialized in Plastic Surgery and Dermatology

Family and childhood

Dr.Souad adored medicine since she was a child. She hoped always to study medicine and to be a doctor in the future because she was fond of science and all related topics. She enjoyed studying the human body and the functions of his body systems. Her family backed her and was very supportive .she was the second child between her brothers and sisters. Her eldest sister is also a doctor and she has six more brothers and sisters who are younger than her. Her mother didn't get any education and she was an ordinary housewife. Her father used to work in trading and now he is retired but still trades in heavy duty parts .She studied at Government public schools in Sharjah .Her ambition to study medicine was established when she used to go to the hospital at time of being sick. Doctors used to describe the medicine without even trying to check up the patient or to smile in his or her face She admits that the doctors ways in treating patients at that time made her want to become a doctor in order to try and change the tough and bad treatment that the patient gets from these doctors. Her parents encouraged her to study and they didn't stop against her well .She wanted to travel and continue her studies abroad. They were open minded and they were not against any well of any daughter.

University

Dr. Souad decided to study medicine in Jordan after she finished her high school because she preferred to study in an Arabic country .She compared between Egypt and Jordan but Jordan was in her opinion better in education than Egypt because the number of students were less in each class in Jordan. Her father accompanied her at first and encouraged her to accept the scholarship. He and her mother were following up her progress .Her mother used to stay late at night while she used to study. She says that she was hesitated at first when she discovered that the number of females in the

class were only six and males used to draw moustaches on their pictures and make fun of them . Dr.Souad thanks God that her family was this type of family because she knows many girls who got very high marks in high school but their parents didn't allow them to continue their studies. She graduated from the college of medicine and become the first female doctor in her family. Her grade was very high and she thought then about continuing her studied in America. She studied the accreditation American Exams and she sat for a theoretical test .After graduating from her General Medicine stage she was ready to go t America. She couldn't enter the specialty directly, so she selected the field of Intrinsic medicine. Studying Dermatology was very critical as only students with very high grades were allowed to enroll in it .She graduated with very high marks in the accreditation exams so she could enter that college and study her favourite subject. Dr.Souad declares that she was able to continue her studies because the UAE Ministry of Health granted her a scholarship and the UAE government supported her in her way to the future.

Work

Post to graduation, she worked in the Ministry of Health in the UAE. She was able to diagnose the patient and the cause of his or her disease from the first look to his or her body. She loves beauty and her specialty is concerned about this topic. People in Dr. Souad's opinion used to believe that dermatology is only concerned about diseases that affect their skins but Dr. Souad says that she studied the specialty of making people more beautiful and how to try and rectify some defects in the human bodies .She says that not only females patients come to her but females are more in numbers than males and thy form about 99% of her patients. Dr.Souad is a very ambitious woman and she used to work overtime for seven years while working and doing her board exams in America. She collected a good amount of money and when she returned to the UAE she opened her clinic and equipped it with two expensive laser machines. She worked day and night and this wasn't difficult for her because she has planned for that and she drew her future very well.Dr.Souad says that the nature of people in America is very different than people in the UAE. She finds that the language and the nature of Emarati people is easier for her to deal with them but the people themselves don't accept

changes or the nature of diseases as they do in America. She needed more than a year in order to get herself understand and get accustomed with Emarati people.

Future

Dr. Souad is full of optimism about the future of dermatology and plastic surgery in the UAE .She says that people started to understand the requirements of beauty and they become aware of how the outside look of the person is very important. She says that her specialty is not very spread between females but she encourages UAE females to study it and become specialists in it because Arab Muslim women don't agree to be diagnosed by males doctors. Females compose the majority of the population in addition to the majority of the patients. Dr.Souad trusts the future of females in medicine in different specializations and believes that there are many changes around. Now patients can search the internet to learn more about their diseases and they come to her knowing that if they are sick they can find cure, but in the past they were very afraid, hesitated and ashamed of declaring their sufferings. Medicine was still very raw in the UAE and in its first step when Dr.Souad graduated from her high school, but now there are many medical collages and there are many clinics with better equipments. She admits that in spite of many medicine collages in the UAE, they still need more improvements such as bringing more specializations and not to limit the education in General Medicine only.

Dr. Souad feels that she has done the most important thing in her life , when she changed the manners of dealing with patients and she is treating them in a very warm and welcoming way. She cannot forget the first time when she was a child and how the doctor treated her in a very tough and not friendly way.

Dr.Manal Tariam

Specialist in the Retina Surgery

Family and Childhood

Dr. Manal relates her success to her father who used to advice his children, encouraging them to go after education and grant more knowledge. Her father gave them according to her freedom in thinking and selecting what suites their desires and wishes. His encouragement was the main effect on her success. Dr.Mana says:” When I used to face some opinions that tries to put obstacles in front of females who wish to enter the field of medicine, my father didn’t listen to them and increased his encouragement to me . He also cared a lot to teach us the best behavior in dealing with the others and how to respect their opinions. We learned a lot from him when he used to make us participate in many celebrations and trips. The best example that made me happy and put a great example in front of me was my father’s encouragement to my mother to continue her studies. She was married to him after she granted her high school certificate and he wanted her to complete her university after marriage. My mother worked as a teacher after graduation and then she had ambitions to go for further studies. She granted her PhD after all in statistics from Britain. And now she is working as the Deputy Director of the American University in Sharjah (AUS). Her success was an amazing example for all of us and made us think about education as the best way to a good future.

Dr.Manal decided to study Astronomy when she was in high school. In order to become a space scientist, but her father advised her to select another field of study which may be more useful to serve the community, so she selected medicine. “Medicine is one of largest and widest fields of study. It’s full of knowledge and thrilling information. Studying in the field of medicine was considered as one of the big achievements for UAE females at that time. It opens wide doors to serve the humanity in the community.”

University

Dr. Manal wanted to study Astronomy but her father advised her to select another study which assists her to serve wider scope in her community. After her father's advise she thought about becoming a medical doctor and then she took her decision to join the Girls Dubai Medical College. She was granted her bachelor in medicine and surgery. She also won Sheikh Rashid award for scientific distinction.

Work

After her graduation she joined Dubai Medical Department. She says that she found working there very encouraging and supporting. The department was very helpful and they supported her further studies. This supporting atmosphere helped her to grant the specialty in medicine and eyes surgery. She selected this field of specialty because she felt it's a very interesting and wide subject. It consists of various branches and scientific subjects. "I loved this topic because it joins between physics and Biology, it joins also between surgery and hypo gene. I have chosen the Retina surgery because there is no UAE national whether a male or a female specialized doctor in this field and it is one of the most important branches in the field of eyes medicine. This specialty is rare and very needed specialty in the UAE. It contains the usage of many techniques, challenges and it's the field of distinction. "I found everybody supporting my choice, my family and the department of health where I work in addition to the encouragement that I got from the optics doctors Association in the UAE which is headed by Dr. Ali Shukar." Dr. Manal says She admits that she selected this specialty because she wanted to travel to a new country that she didn't see before. This specialty was only available at colon university. "I didn't learn the Dutch language before and I put this challenge in front of my way to success.) She added that traveling to a new foreign country was a new experience for Dr. Manal, the UAE girl who comes from a conservative society. She wanted to face this challenge and succeed in it. She learnt the new language, lived with a foreign family in order to practice the language and in the same time learn about their traditions and customs. Within eight months she learned the language and was

able to start her studies .After starting her university work her feeling of homesickness started to vanish and she was busy all the time in studying..

Future

Dr.Manal granted the Germaine Board that is equivalent to PhD in the UAE in the field of eyes surgery and medicine .She has participated in many conferences during her study in many countries including the UAE, USA and Germany. She worked as an academic teacher in the field of eyes medicine in the University of Colon. Dr.Manal refers her success to the atmosphere that she lived in when she was a child. She says that she learned how to introduce herself in a real image of the UAE girl. She represented her country in all what she did and she was a proud female of what the UAE and women in it have reached. Dr.Manal knows that the UAE Woman is able to give in all fields and not to be limited to one type of profession. There is no profession that is nt suitable with her abilities, Dr. Manal continues to say, and the UAE women are found nowadays in everywhere and in the best leading positions. She refers this success to the opportunities given to her from the UAE government and their support to women to become more educated and grant higher certificates .She is also allowed to work and equalized with men in everything. She is open to other different cultures and she is aware of the important role played by her to find a stronger place in the front leading rows.

Dr.Manal added : “I think the first step in my success was the school where I learnt. There I learned that the student must posses a strong confident personality and express his opinions in liberty. My father and the way he raised up , in addition to my uncles role the late “Tariam Omran” who has founded the first newspaper in the UAE “Al Khaleej” which is still a leading newspaper in thought ,liberty and discussing issues. He was very concerned about us when he was alive, following our education and he was our modal in the family. In addition to my job as a doctor I am intending to do many researches and studies. I intend also to participate in academic teaching n order to benefit the other generations. I am working with the Ministry of Health that nominated me to learn more about the causes of blindness that happens to aged people. I work with

this association to organize three annual medical conferences in the UAE. I also organize lectures and many awareness courses that aims to educate the community and focus on the university students about the eyes diseases and how to protect eyes from them.”

Dr.Manal is very confident about her success and her traditional costume .she says that she didn't give up her head cover during her studying years in foreign countries and she made people respect her for her success and cleverness and accept her head cover as a part of a UAE traditional citizen.

Dr. Ahlam Al Housani

Director of Administrative Development Department

At Ministry of Health in the UAE.

Family and early childhood :

Ahlam was born in a normal Arabic Traditional family that consists of her parents , six boys and four girls. This large number of brothers and sisters could in some families become an obstacle on the way of their children's progress and success ,but in Ahlam's case it seems that the family was able to deliver good ways of raising up their children and make one of them become an educated , experienced woman in the UAE .When Ahlam was young at the time of her childhood , she was surrounded by her parents encouragement to learn and their enhancing her to become a distinctive school girl and succeed to win the first position . Ahlam thought a lot about her community and looked forward to serve it after she finished her school. Her father was also an open minded person who didn't have a chance to study and fulfill his ambitions in that, so he returned back to school and he was enrolled in it with his children .Ahlam is always mentioning her father filled with proud because he was ambitious to learn and get education and his age didn't prevent him from doing so . This ambition and his willing to be a student again helped him to understand what his children learn and to communicate with them very well. At school Ahlam Al Hosani used to enroll in different co-curriculum activities as she could figure that these activities can be of the greatest help for her. These activities were so helpful that they allowed her get more self confidence and understand life more as if she was looking to it through an older accurate eye. Ahlam still remembers the self governance activity that was introduced at her school and meant how all students could become principals or deputies instead of the administrative staff for a week. This activity was one of the best activities in schools at that time and they made .Ahlam look forward to a successful future in which she can become a leader .

University:

The United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain city was the first university in the UAE that helped females to study and continue their studies to get degrees. This university paved the way to women in order to start their ways and go forward for higher levels of education and work. Ahlam enrolled in the UAE university to study her favorite subject which was administrative and political sciences. The most difficult problem was when she had to face the loneliness by being away from her family as she had to travel from her home in Abu Dhabi to Al Ain every Friday and comes back to her house in the weekend every Wednesday. This route made her feel more attached to her family and looking forward to return home every Wednesday. Her University time was a challenging period for her and for many of the other girls who had to travel in the same way. She felt that her parents who allowed her to live away from them are waiting for her success and that she had to pay them back for being encouraging, patient and very cooperative with her during education years. She granted the best marks and distinctive standards in her studies as she dedicated herself and her time for success. She was granted a scholarship to study for a shorter time than the other students, who had to complete all of the university specialty requirements in a longer time than she did so she completed her graduation within three and a half years while her colleagues had to stay for more time. Ahlam was looking forward to become employed and get a good job.

Work

Ministry of Health was the station in which Dr. Ahlam parked her ambition and started working in the administration department. She was then rotated in different departments and ended up as the Head of Continuous Training and Learning Centre there.

She was granted an educational scholarship in USA to complete her studies. And she says that this period was the best enjoyable time for her. This PhD was the real start for her success and it was the powerful minute that she went through to become what she is

now. This graduation experience helped her plan for others and to promote in her work .She developed the section which she was in charge of and put all her knowledge in it. Ahlam also says that she could communicate better with her children after becoming more educated and aware of the meaning of knowledge. Now Ahlam believes that education opens the doors for every ambition in every one and helps to make life greater for everyone.

Future

Dr. Ahlam is planning for adding more training courses in the department that she is in charge of and she wants to give the employees in the Ministry of Health and transfer to them all of what she can and remember in order to develop their abilities and help them to invest in their powers and brains . She also looks at their abilities and says that people should try their best to learn and use their time for learning and gaining more knowledge as much as they can . The UAE woman in Ahlam Al Hosani opinion is enjoying the best time of their lives and they are ready to step towards a golden future that allows them to be more confident and trustful among the others in the community . Ahlam is encouraged and pushed to get better decisions and to become a decision maker. This way will open the gate of success and leadership for all new generations of girls who can learn and look at Ahlam and other successful female's experiences in order to become leaders and to learn as much as they can to face this globalize changing world.

Thurayya Qambar

Businesswoman (Trading)

Family and Childhood

Thurayya Qambar Al Awadi is a mother of seven and is a very famous businesswoman in the UAE. She was able to become one of the most well known figures in business in the UAE following her family's males and females who were and still very popular in the field of business .Her father as she says , was a very conservative person and one of the most important merchants in Dubai at his time, when Dubai was at its early times , famous with some names of merchants in it .He was a very clever man who chose the way of merchandising ,but growing a big fortune wasn't his aim in life and he has once donated his personal money to establish a full section in Al Maktoum Hospital in Dubai. Thurayya remembers also that her family was a very open minded family in a time where most of the families were very closed on themselves and they were not allowing their daughters to work or lead their lives .Thurayya is not ashamed to say that she started her business from her house without renting an office and hiring any employees according to the style of work to be followed until she could achieve a good reputation as a very important businesswoman in the UAE market.

Thurayya completed her high school studies , but when it was time to travel for her further and higher education ,her father didn't accept to send her to continue her higher studies abroad and he asked her to delay her ambitions in that regard. All of her brothers were allowed to travel and study in different universities in London but she was not allowed to join them because she was a female.

University

Thurayya was a lucky female because she got married at that time ,when she was told by her father to stay home . Her husband was nominated to travel for an educational expedition in the USA .He took her with him and this was the first step to realize her dreams. She wasn't able at first to study or to continue her studies because she become a mother and was busy taking care of their children who were born there while the husband was busy in his studies and fulfilling the expedition requirements, but then she

the light came to her mind and she decided to study by joining the university. She was told that she was supposed to set for a test in English language to measure her abilities in this language. She knew that she was very weak in the language but being a lucky person as she admits she didn't only manage to pass the test but she won the first grade in this language and made all of the others admire her willingness and strong ability.

Work

Her life was dominated by her seven children. She wasn't able to start her business because she had given all of her time for them. She refused to depend on maids as many other UAE women do and she wanted to raise her children by herself. After her youngest son was sent to school she started her business. She says: "I can't remember facing any difficulties at that time and my father who was one of the most important merchants in Dubai was of a great help to me. He gave me a lot of his opinions and helped me by his wide views .I inherited success from my father."

Thurayya admits that she didn't think about working in a governmental sector as the majority of UAE people do because she thinks that the governmental work is very limited and is tailored for different types of people. She says that she leaves her place there for people who may need it more than her. Thurayya believes that working in business makes her develop her views and ambitions and be able to become more innovative.

Future

Thurayya thinks that the UAE woman has granted admiration from every one because she could enter all of markets and made a success in her work. She says that one of the most important reasons that stands behind females success is the encouragement given to them from Fatema Al Marri, Head of Research Section in the Chambers of Commerce Union. Fatema was behind the establishment of the Business Women Council in Dubai .Thurayya says that the change in the look towards women's roles in the UAE happened after many women have proved their abilities and success in being

leaders and gained trust from the surrounding people. They also proved that they could succeed in the field that was dominated by men .Thurayya husband used to say:” Education is more important for girls than boys because the man is able to do any kind of work for living while a female cannot live by working in any job.”

Thurayya is now managing a group of companies and she declares that her success is related to her father’s philosophy that being a rich person means you should respect the poor people and try to treat them in a better way .People love us now because I and my brothers deal with people in this way.

Thurayya believes that women are nowadays becoming more open and modernized .They work and assess their families more. They speak different languages and they talk in business. She says that work didn’t steal her time as some other women may say .Business in her opinion helped her to look more at her life and follow her family in a better way. She still care about her children and in spite of having a driver who drives her children to school but she wakes up early to take her daughter to school and bring her back after school by herself. What mostly astonishes Thurayya is hearing people say that business women are heartless and emotionless. She says business women are still humans and females who look after their families and enjoy being a part of them.

Dr.Najat Makki

Artist

PHD in the philosophy in arts : Metallic ancient and modern coins.

Family and childhood

She was born in Dubai in a traditional Emarati family that consists of three sisters ,mother and father. Her father was a very wise man who tried his best to plant precious values in his children in order to make them decent citizens and used to teaching them how to respect the others and make the others respect them too. He was a teacher and a father in the same time. Her mother was devoted to her family as a normal traditional UAE woman and raised her children up making them carry many values about how to be successful in life and how to respect themselves and others. Najat Makki admits that she was very lucky because she was born in one of the best and prestigious areas in the UAE at that time where many gold and textiles shops with old buildings and houses made of heritage structure were surrounding her. She remembers that when she used to walk in that area she used to look closely at the beautiful eastern embroiders on colorful beautifully designed dresses, and the amazing colors of the shining bright textiles. All of these scenes, colors, designs, embroideries and different heritage things were stored in her brain since that small age. When Najat returns home at that time she transferred what she passed by on papers or even on paper bags. The richness in golden jewels and the creative designs made her love art and dreamt to become an artist.

She studied in Government schools and graduated from high school looking forward at postgraduate study in one of the art institutions in the Arab world.

University

Through the Ministry of Higher Education Dr.Najat applied for two choices ,Baghdad or Cairo institutions as they were two of the famous well reputed arts institutions at that time. She was accepted in Cairo and started her way there. When traveling for the first time ,she was afraid of facing the new society and a different place away from her family. This feeling died as soon as she met people from the UAE embassy in Cairo who helped her to get settled in the UAE girls' hostel and after she met many UAE

students there. She started a first year of preparation in the college in order to get ready for her specialty and then entered the sculpturing section in which she specialized later on. The hostel was very warm and friendly. All of the UAE students there were very close to each other and they cooperated together in order to reduce the feeling of homesickness. Studying arts was very interesting and her day started from 7 a.m to 6 p.m in the college where she enjoyed arts, exhibitions, drawing and all of creative surroundings there. In the year 1981 Dr.Najat granted her degree in sculpturing in the field of metal coins.

Work

Dr.Najat returned to the UAE after 5 years of studying in the college. She joined the Ministry of Education as a head of educational materials and tools. She mentioned how the managers in charge in the Ministry at that time helped her to improve her talent because they were creative and artists themselves. Being managed by people who understand the feelings and the required environment for you to become more creative helped her to settle and achieve a lot. At that time she started to feel a need for developing her abilities and looked at more education. She applied for the higher diploma and got the approval to continue her higher studies at Cairo arts College. After granting her PhD. In Philosophy of arts, in the study of old coins she acquired a lot of political, historical, social and many other information as coins were a very good opportunity to dive in the ancient world and learn about many changes, kings and societies in different eras. The worst thing that happened to her was returning back to the same job and position in the Ministry of Education. She felt very depressed as if she didn't achieve better by her PhD. Now she has retired from her job and she is very busy with many exhibitions, traveling, membership in different arts associations and being a very active person in different activities in the UAE.

Future

Dr. Najat is a very ambitious woman. She knows that success and talents need freedom and require many needs from the society and people around her. She knows that

success needed her to sacrifice a lot by her time and many other social needs but she is happy that she is translating her talents and she is achieving her dreams. In the UAE women are receiving their rights and sharing men success .They are getting better positions and can compete for the best. She advices all of young generations to be patients and to learn from her father's wisdom that they should insist on their dreams and ambitions but not to play havoc or be hasty to get everything in a very short time. Dr. Najat looks at the future of the UAE women artists with the eye of relieve as they are increasing and families accept their daughters creativeness and talents in a better way than the past.

Dr.Najat Makki was the first woman who continued her studies and achieved the PhD in arts and introduced painting as one of the important fields that cold make women distinguished in it. Knowing that many other UAE females have entered this world encouraged by those who started it and one of them is Dr. Najat makes us understand the significance of her success and why I included her in my study. Makki also was inspired by the UAE traditional heritage such as :embroideries ,sea and other materials in nature and surroundings .She used all of the heritage elements in her work. She represented the small descriptions of the UAE heritage in her paintings and this made her work very special and related to land.

Dr. Fahima Kamel Al Awadi

Head of Pharmacies Management

Dubai Medical Zone

The first UAE female who holds a PhD in Pharmacies Sciences

Family and Childhood

Fahima was born in Dubai. She says that during her childhood she was a very brilliant child and she used to succeed with distinctive marks in her educational years. When she reached the High School she got 96% as a degree. She was awarded by a scholarship to study in Medicine College. She was only 18 years old at that time and her dream was studying in the collage of Medicine to become a doctor. In 1984 her father accompanied her to study in USA .She admits that the differences in traditions and customs were very difficult for her at that time but that difficulty become easier when some other females from the family wanted to enter the College of Pharmacy .She selected Pharmacies Sciences because she found out that medicine need her to study for 8 years. At the beginning she faced difficulty in this study and she studied two preparatory years in the college of pharmacy then she become one of the distinctive students in this college and her name used to be listed on the honor list board for the rest 3 years of study. She loved Chemistry and Biology and that made her want to study in this field.

University

She went to study at Doken University in Pennsylvania State in the US. She studied in the college of Pharmacies Sciences and obtained the Bachelor degree from there in 1989.

She remembers that she could manage living abroad and her strong ability to finish her studies in order to return to the UAE with her degree in Medicine.

Work

In 1990 Fahima joined The Ministry of Health as a Pharmacist at Al Baraha Hospital in Dubai. She became in charge of Clinic in less than one year and she moved to work as an officer in charge of the pharmacy in medicine section at the central enterprises in Dubai. In 1997 she became the head of pharmacy management at Dubai Medical Zone. In spite of her being busy and occupied all the day with her job work she insisted on completing her higher education. Her dream was to fulfill her ambitions in granting higher certificates and education so she joined the University of Erwin in Scotland. In the year 2003 and through a “teleconference” between the University of Sharjah and Erwin Scotland, Fahima who was at the Sherhjah University at that moment discussed her thesis in front of a higher committee composed of Doctors from Sharjah University and Some of other British and Scottish Universities .She granted her PHD and became the first UAE female who holds a PHD in Pharmacies Sciences. Her thesis was talking about the risks behind excessive usage of Anti Biotic for people who suffer from diseases in their breath system in the UAE. She found out that this excessive use of Anti Biotic has many side effects that may result in greater problems latterly and may lead to the problem of not finding any other Bacteria that can defend the Anti Biotic. During Fahima’s work in the Hospitals and Clinics she noticed that Doctors usually and exaggeratedly describe the Anti Biotic for people with diseases in breath system. The pivot of her thesis wasn’t only searching for reasons and results of this phenomenon but also to find the suitable ways that can help in stopping this usual habit to prescribe Anti Biotic too. She also reached a discovery that patients who suffer from diseases in their breathing system are not able to be cured by Anti Biotic and this medicine has no effect on them .These patients can be cured automatically and naturally from the disease while using the Anti Biotic is risky and in the same time puts more expenses on the burden of the Ministry of Health in the UAE. In her Masters degree she defined the disease, the problem and the causes of the problem then she added some practical recommendations for patients and doctors in her PHD thesis telling them that using preventive ways that can stop the disease are better than searching for the medicine to cure this disease. Patients who

follow Dr. Fahima's recommendations listed in her PHD Thesis can overcome any of these diseases without the need to take any Anti Biotic medicine as followed in the USA and in Europe. Dr. Fahima explains that in her methodology to prepare her thesis she took a random sample selected for her study that showed larger number of patients who visit clinics in the UAE suffer from the Upper Breathing System Diseases. 60% to 90% from those patients get medical prescriptions that depend on Anti Biotic. This discovery put her thesis on the top of the high important health issues in the UAE and worldwide. She says that the most important problem that hides behind this manner of prescriptions is generating the kind of Germs and Bacteria that defend medicine and cannot be affected by it. Dr. Fahima adds that her recommendations to conduct more researches and studies regarding the scope of public awareness in the UAE that can make people aware of the dangers caused by Anti Biotic treatment and to explain for them more about the diseases that can make their breathing system ill , how to cure that and how this disease can be transferred between people and the best treatment to cure it .She also focused on the importance of the laboratory analysis that can decide the type of the germ that caused the disease in the breathing system in order to prescribe the suitable medicine for it. She says that the way she explained in her thesis has 70% reduced the usage of this treatment .

Future

Fahima is very proud of her self as a successful woman and she admits that the support of her country and family was the first core in her success .The UAE Government gave her the chance to complete her studies and opened the door in front of her dreams .She mentioned the general environment in the UAE that supports females equity and education to be the best push and support for her too. Her parents pushed her to become a successful girl and then her husband who is a businessman understood that success for her means education. He supported her studies specially when she was pregnant .She feels that her success means success of all and every UAE women . She admits that she couldn't succeed and prove her abilities if the Rulers in the UAE didn't help her and furnish her way for this

success. She can feel this help as all other UAE people feel it and enjoy it . Now Dr.Fahima is studying the available opportunities to become an academic teacher in the University .Her work in researching Medical Centre at sharjah University is the way for her to look seriously at teaching and becoming a member of their teaching staff there.

Sara Baker

Businesswoman –Member in many Charity Associations

Family and Childhood

Although Sara was born in a very rich family, her father cared a lot about educating his children. He used to send them during summer vacations to Britain in order to gain the correct language and accent. They lived with English families in order to learn the language from them. Sara still remembers when she traveled for the first time to London. She was five years old and she lived with one of the English families there. The first days, as she says, were the worst in my life. I used to cry a lot because I needed my family and I couldn't live without them there. After a period of time she became adapted with the family and she started to play with the children and learn the language forgetting her sadness and missing her family in Dubai. For five summer vacations Sara used to travel to Britain until she became fluent in the language in a very early age. This made her become very good in the language. She could even correct her teachers mistakes and errors in English. The only bad thing about my learning the other language was that I used to talk with my mother in English but she was speaking Arabic all the time and this made her upset and nervous from dealing with me. After becoming fluent in English Sara's father started to send her to Switzerland in order to learn the French language but she wasn't able to become fluent in French because there were some Arabic girls with her in the hostel and they used to chat in Arabic most of the time. In her childhood she was pushed and encouraged by her mother to enroll in many school activities so she was able to learn how to play on the piano, she practice some sorts and she participated in the theatre team. Sara was the first in her class and she was a distinguished student. She loved biology and she was very successful in this subject.

University

Sara enrolled in Philadelphia American university in the college of dentist. After finishing her first year in this college she discovered that she has to study for 7 years

away from her family and country so she changed all her stream of study and she specialized in the college of children's education as a major specialty and children's psychology as a minor .She loved psychology when she found out during her previous Dentist study that psychology is a very interesting subject. After granting her bachelor in this field the university of Philadelphia offered her to teach the subject there in order to continue her postgraduate studies but she refused because she wanted to go back home. Sara was very attached to her parents and she used to travel every long vacation back to Dubai while her shorter vacations were spent with her brother who was studying at California University. She says that she missed everything in Dubai even their traditional food. Life abroad didn't make Sara feel secured or settled and she was always thinking about her life back in Dubai.

She says:"People in America were not aware about the Gulf women and all they knew was Saudi Arabia as a country. They thought at first that people in the gulf own Oil but they live in tents and go to school on camels .I was trying to change this traditional look .Many of them used to accept this change in their thoughts while most of the others refused that totally. So my next step was to participate with them in festivals by wearing our traditional costume and cooking our food. They loved what I did and it was a good step to show them how do we live and that we have interesting traditions."

Sara got married and she faced two choices whether to stay home to raise her child or to go out for work. Her emotions lead her to select staying home for her child and then she brought three children and she spent her time with them .Sara enrolled in many charity works and donated her time to look after her children and other people in need.

Work

For one year Sara worked as an assisting teacher at Rashid centre for handicapped children .She also formed a group to support the children who suffer from Cancer at Twam hospital in Al Ain. Many doctors enrolled in this group and they used to visit those children twice a week in order to create hope for them. They were very depressed and their look towards future was very dark. We helped them by coloring their rooms and adding a touch of love to them. We supported building libraries and a TV hall for them to enjoy life as many others do. Now Sara works as a family consultant in

children's' Autism Centre. She says that her duty is to receive people who have any problems in dealing with their children and refer them to a specialist in Autism in order to check the child and see what's wrong with him or her. She cares a lot about supporting families and advising them about the best way to deal with sick children. She is also an active member in the Environmental Group in the UAE. She participates in workshops and many other activities for the sake of charity work and to enhance the meaning of helping other people who are in need and make others aware about the necessity of helping others and supporting them.

Sara tries her best to provide these establishments and associations with financial support from companies and other businessmen donations. Her children are helping her in this work and they are following her way in living for others.

Future

Sara wants to return some of her country's favors by helping development in the community and assisting people to step over difficulties. She is always after anything that can help her society and people. She is a rich woman born in a rich wealthy family but she cannot think about her life as a woman who is only enjoying life with friends and spending her time in chats or coffee social life. Sara looks at the new generation in a very worried look. She says that she cannot see them very ambitious in charity work and we should lead them and make them aware about the importance of this humanitarian job. Sara tries her best to plant this feeling in her own children and she advices all families to help their children look at charity work as a very important role in their lives. Sara Baker is a wealthy woman who was born in a wealthy family and was always able to buy everything to her children but she doesn't encourage this and she doesn't give them what they want because she wants them to work for what they get and makes sure they don't get any of their desires in an easy way because many other children cannot get the main necessary needs of their lives .