

# Adult Education and Illiteracy Eradication in Kuwait

The following is a brief report, published in 1982 on Adult Education and Illiteracy Eradication in Kuwait during the years 1967-1980.<sup>(1)</sup>

## 1. First Stage: Illiteracy Eradication Centers

1) In 1967-77 five centers to extinguish illiteracy were opened in Kuwait. Three of these centers were assigned to women.

2) Illiteracy Eradication courses were started for army men and prisoners in 1976-77.

3) At the beginning of 1976-77 specialists in the teaching of illiterates were employed instead of untrained teachers.

4) The Kuwaiti Ministry of Education participated in the 11th, 13th and 15th Adult Education Workshops held at Sirs-el-Layyan, Egypt in 1976-77. It also participated in seminars on women's educational needs and adult education held in Baghdad, Sirs-el-Layyan and Bahrain during the years 1976, 1977 and 1979.

5) In 1979 the Ministry organized panels of experts who discussed methods of training illiterate youth and programs that could be prepared for their rehabilitation. In those panels emphasis was placed on the people's participation in the campaign for wiping out illiteracy, on coordination of efforts and on close cooperation between the government and the people's organizations.

6) Between 1976 and 1979 several conferences were held in Alexandria, Mogadishy, Somalia, Bahrain, Sirs-el-Layyan and Baghdad dealing with illiteracy eradication programs. Delegates of the Kuwait Ministry of Education took part in the conferences.

## II. Intermediate and Secondary Stage

### 1) Guidance and follow-up

A group of expert men and women counselors were placed in charge of counseling students at the intermediate and secondary levels, and of improving school standards and teachers' methods. Emphasis was placed on improved methodology in teaching science and mathematics and in preparing examination questions.

Counselors extended their activities to prison schools to which they made visits of inspection. Transportation facilities, school contests in Koranic reading, poetry reading, and literary composition were organized.

### 2) Penmanship Institute

Penmanship institutes for teaching the art of Arabic handwriting were created in two centers of the country. Students included Kuwaitis and foreigners, young people and adults, and students of ordinary schools and of prison schools. Annual exhibits and the great interest it aroused proved the success of the project.

### 3) Cultural Guidance

Social activities, library equipment, magazine publication, and the creation of centers for Adult Education and Illiteracy Eradication projects in 1974-75 were developed for cultural guidance. The following is a list of the most important achievements in the realm:

a) Preparation of a program of consciousness raising and of social and health education, which was gradually carried out in 54 centers for men and women, in coordination and cooperation with the Directorate of Adult Education and the Ministry of Health. The topics included in the program were inspired by local needs.

b) General Cultural Activities (1976-1980)

– Preparation and presentation of three films on cultural activity and adult education programs.

– Organization of annual receptions for the distribution of prizes and certificates.

– Organization of four exhibits presenting arts and crafts works performed by students in their leisure hours.

– Preparation of regular radio talks on the activities of the Education Centers.

– Publication of a magazine.

– Publication of a yearbook summarizing the achievements of the Adult Education Centers. The book was distributed on the occasion of the International Illiteracy Eradication Day.

– Enlargement and development of the library including all the documents published by the Arab Regional Center for Illiteracy Eradication Programs.

(1) By the Directorate of Adult Education and Illiteracy Eradication, Ministry of Education, Kuwait.

c) Other Social Activities:

– At the Men's Centers, 31 programs were organized on national and religious occasions; at the Women's Centers, there were 45 of such programs.

– Itinerant teams of students were formed to spread awareness and participate in social activities like general cleanliness and traffic regulations.

**III. Recommendations**

– Continuous development of the program of general health awareness in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

– Necessity of introducing athletic activities

in Adult Education Centers.

– Training the students in the use of the school libraries and urging them to develop permanent reading habits.

– Enrichment of the Central Library.

**IV. Difficulties faced by the Directorate:**

– Lack of interest, especially among women, in Adult Education and Illiteracy Eradication Courses.

– Large number of drop-outs.

– Irregular attendance of students.

– Inadequate salaries paid to employees.

– Inadequate financial assistance given to delegates who attended training sessions in Bahrain.