

Bahrain: Eradication of Illiteracy By the Year 2000^(☆)

Manama: July 23-24, 1990

In celebration of the International Year to eradicate illiteracy the Ministry of Education of Bahrain held a conference to discuss strategies of work among its citizens by the year 2000.

The objectives of the conference were to introduce the national plan of action, to look into the problems of primary education and their impact on illiteracy, and to discuss the role of Family Associations in this struggle against illiteracy.

In the opening statement, the Director of Training in the Ministry, Mr. Ali Abdel-Khalek reported that illiteracy in the Arab World is as high as 50 percent, i.e. there are 80 million illiterate Arabs including 70 percent female illiteracy and 21 million children who do not receive any kind of formal schooling.

Abdel-Khalek concluded by emphasizing that Bahrain aims to remove 'this seige on education among its citizens' by the year 2000.

Mr. Mohamad Al-Abbas Al-Imadi, the Director of Administration of Adult Education, spoke of the programs, strategies and progress done by the Ministry of Education in combating illiteracy. Thus, in collaboration with social and family planning associations, the Ministry has introduced important teaching methods to its literacy projects. Furthermore, the Ministry has successfully dealt with many of the problems which hinder the enrollment of adults in its adult education programs; and continues to do so.

According to Al-Imadi, illiteracy in Bahrain for people between 10 and 44 years of age was 6,218 males (9.1%) and 20,506 (19.05%) females. However, by 1989, illiteracy has been reduced by 7.5 percent for the age bracket in question. Thus, illiteracy has gone down to 3.4 percent among Bahrain males and to 11.6 percent among Bahraini females.

Al-Imadi also stated that a new plan devised by the National Council of Bahrain to Eradicate illiteracy has the remaining illiterate sectors of the population as its target. The council is also introducing new educational and occupational strategies and incentives in its adult education program ●

(☆) Source: *Al-Anwar* Daily Newspaper. July 7, 1990, p. 7.