

Analysis of the Development Process of Higher Education in UAE

Jichao Zhang

Ningxia University, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

Abstract: At present, the continuous development of the belt and road initiative's economic construction has promoted the progress of higher education in countries along the route. There are three modes of higher education in UAE: federal government universities, Emirates government universities and private universities. Relevant research shows that the characteristics of higher education in UAE are that the foreign population makes higher education more international, the local university education is deeply influenced by Islam, and the number of private universities is relatively large. There are more foreign teachers than local teachers, and English is the main language of universities. Therefore, the UAE pays more attention to the localization and standardization of higher education and the fair construction of education population. This paper mainly studies the development of higher education in UAE.

Keywords: United Arab Emirates; Higher education; Development history

DOI: 10.47297/wspiedWSP2516-250056.20220608

1. Introduction

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), referred to as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is a country located along the the belt and road initiative economy. It was established on December 2, 1971, with Abu Dhabi as its capital. With the continuous development of UAE's economy, UAE government departments gradually attach importance to the construction of education. After years of reform and development, UAE's higher education has entered a new stage of development and has been continuously optimized.

2. The Establishment and Development of Higher Education in UAE

United Arab Emirates (UAE), a country with abundant oil resources, was founded in 1971. At that time, because there were no higher education schools in UAE, most students needed to go abroad for higher education and obtain corresponding degrees. In 1977, the UAE government established the first institution of higher learning with a total of 502 students. The development of

higher education in UAE has mainly experienced the following aspects^[1]:

At present, the existing education system in UAE can be traced back to the religious schools in the early 20th century, and developed in 1950s. At that time, the total number of schools in UAE was 20, with the total number of students below 4,000, and most of the students were boys. At that time, due to the shortage of human resources and the lack of social infrastructure, such as medical facilities, transportation facilities, domestic service facilities, etc., there was some improvement after the founding of the United Arab Emirates in 1970s. Prior to this, education in UAE was created spontaneously by religious teachers. The main teaching contents were the Qur 'an, natural science, mathematics and other subjects. They only studied simple reading and spelling. There was no special school, and they were usually taught at home. In the 1950s, most Gulf countries began to attach importance to education, which promoted social and cultural changes. After the founding of the United Arab Emirates, Islam occupied an important position in national construction and was closely related to government management. The follow-up oil development has promoted the development of UAE's economy and trade, and has an important influence on the follow-up education.

Most of the teachers in UAE come from other Arab countries, and their language and culture provide support for the construction of the UAE school system. The education system in UAE is developing. At present, public schools in the education system are free and open, ranging from preschool education to higher education. In the early days of the founding of UAE, there was a lack of professional education system. In the 1980s, due to the development and utilization of oil and geographical advantages, with the development of UAE's economy, the progress of education was promoted. As the domestic teachers were relatively weak, the UAE government introduced a large number of foreign educational technologies and experiences, created a domestic educational system, and hired educational experts from Egypt and Jordan. English was the teaching language of institutions of higher learning, which provided support for the development of education in UAE.

3. The Current Situation of Higher Education Development in UAE

At present, in UAE, the floating population is three times of the total local population, and this demographic structure is highly valued by UAE government departments. In view of this demographic situation, the UAE government has made use of education and training to integrate more citizens into all fields of national construction, thus providing UAE citizens with more competitive advantages in education and social labor market^[2]. In order to achieve this goal, the UAE government pays more attention to national education and the construction of

higher education. The main educational goal is to train more high-quality talents and provide talents for the social labor market. Since then, the construction of education has become an indispensable part of the development of UAE. In order to achieve the country's development goals and build a new type of ethnic relations, the UAE places its hopes on the construction of education, so as to realize the free development of the society. The UAE countries have created a lot of social welfare for the citizens. However, due to the shortage of professional labor technology, in order to ensure the social and economic operation, the UAE government needs to introduce foreign labor.

There are more private schools than public schools in UAE. Due to the gradual increase of overseas laborers in UAE, private schools are more likely to provide educational services for foreign laborers, so that these foreign laborers can settle in UAE and provide educational opportunities for their children. These private schools have played an important role in attracting outstanding foreign teachers. Although, at the beginning, these private schools were British and American educational models, and English was the main language of colleges and universities. With the continuous development of private schools, the educational models became more diversified and international, which promoted the development of education in UAE ^[3].

4. The Development Trend of Higher Education in UAE

(1) Promoting the localization of education with the help of globalization.

Under the background of economic globalization, the United Arab Emirates has gradually become an economic power, and has become more international in the construction of higher education. However, due to the large foreign population in UAE, all fields except UAE government departments need to rely on foreign labor, which has a negative impact on local construction. Therefore, UAE government departments have formulated corresponding strategies to support the development of education localization in UAE.

First of all, the UAE has introduced a policy system to limit the number of foreigners. With the help of education and training, the population quality and comprehensive ability of UAE citizens have been continuously improved, so that UAE citizens can be more integrated into the social market construction.

Secondly, UAE government departments have increased the number of local teachers, attached importance to the construction of local teachers, and reduced the number of foreign teachers. By optimizing the local higher education environment, the UAE has promoted the salary and status of local teachers in China, and absorbed a large number of domestic high-quality professionals to join the education field. At

the same time, the UAE has continuously improved the quality of higher education by means of pre-job training and on-the-job training.

Finally, the UAE government pays more attention to the status of Arabic. It is of great significance to the construction and development of native-speaking countries, and the UAE government has gradually realized the importance of Arabic and reduced its emphasis on English. On August 13th, 2014, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research signed an agreement with the Arabic Protection Association of the United Arab Emirates, the main purpose of which is to base on the long-term development of the UAE government, call on UAE nationals to use Arabic, let Arabic be valued in colleges and universities, enhance the status of Arabic, and enhance the national self-confidence and pride of UAE nationals.

(2) Strengthening and improving the qualification certification and quality supervision of international private universities

With the gradual increase of international private universities in UAE, new requirements are put forward for the UAE government's licensing work and the management of institutions of higher learning. In order to promote the development of the management of higher education institutions in UAE, the UAE has established a quality supervision and academic qualification certification system that meets the international demand, which has important support for the accreditation of international private universities, and can authenticate the graduation certificates and degree certificates of international private universities, thus continuously improving the quality of higher education institutions in UAE ^[4].

(3) Promoting gender equity in higher education

At present, the UAE government pays more attention to women's right to education, and the number of women in higher education is increasing. However, female teachers and students in UAE have certain limitations in higher education. The UAE government needs to strengthen education legislation, provide women with equal rights to receive education and work, reduce social discrimination against women, and enhance women's social status.

5. Conclusion

All in all, the continuous development of oil economy in UAE has promoted the progress of higher education in UAE, making higher education more international, with more private schools and more foreigners than locals. Faced with this situation, UAE government departments should attach importance to the localization of education, the use of mother tongue, the standardization of private schools in UAE, and the sustainable development of UAE.

References

- [1] Zhang Jiajun. “Research on the introduction of higher education in the Middle East from the perspective of global education governance” [J]. *Western Journal*, 2022,(7):161-64.
- [2] Chen Hongjie. “From start-up to first-class-the road to the rise of emerging research universities” [J]. *peking university education review*, 2021,19(4):2-3.
- [3] Sun Ziqiu, Xu Xiaoyuan, Qiu Mingming, Tao Ying, Huang Xuemei. “Current situation and development suggestions of pharmaceutical higher education in Arab countries” [J]. *China Pharmaceutical*, 2020,29(3):5-9.
- [4] Liu Zhimin, Hu Shunshun. “Analysis of the causes of sustained growth of higher education in five countries along the “the belt and road initiative”” [J]. *Chongqing Higher Education Research*, 2016,4(6):15-22.