Education and Development in Saudi Arabia:
Women as Agents of Future Change

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Saudi Facts

**Area**: 2,149,690 sq km

**Population**: 28,636,633

**Ethnicity**: 85% Arab

**Language**: Arabic

**Religion**: Islam

**Government type**: Monarchy

**Monetary Unit**: Riyal

**Capital**: Riyadh
Brief overview:

- 1932: Foundation
- 1938: Discovery of oil
  -> One of the world’s fastest growing economies
  -> The world’s largest producer of petroleum liquids (*)
  -> The most dynamic economy in the Arab world
- 1970-present: Five-year developmental plans
  * Industry
  * Agriculture
  * Mining
  * Banking
Education in Saudi Arabia

Percentage of Annual Government Income Allotted to Education

- Government Income
- Education Budget
In 70 years:

- 31,798 schools
- 68 Technical Institutions
- 24 Universities
- 435,343 Academic Staff
- 5,106,162 Students

Raised the literacy rate from %10 to over %82.9
Students Studying in KSA in Comparison to Scholarship Students Abroad

- National: 42%
- Abroad: 58%
Distribution of KASP Scholarship Students by Country

- USA: 25,000
- UK: 15,000
- Australia: 10,000
- Canada: 5,000
- New..: 2,000
- Maylasia: 1,000
- France: 500
- India: 250
- China: 125
- Germany: 125
- Other: 500

Other countries have a distribution of 250 or fewer students.
led to:

- Urbanization of %81 (2008 est)
- KSA ranks 13th most competitive economy (World Bank report 2009)
- KSA health system ranked 26th in the world (WHO 2008)
- KSA IT sector is one of the most advanced in the region.
- KSA ranks 1st in Humanitarian aid; 0.19 of GDP (UN 2009 report)
Some challenges facing Saudi Arabia:

Population growth rate: 1.84 (2009 est)

Age Structure in Saudi Arabia

- 0-14 yrs: 59%
- 15-64 yrs: 38%
- 65+ yrs: 3%
Women and Education:

- 1959 Royal Decree for girls’ schools
- %49 enrolled K-12 (MOE 2008)
- %62 enrolled in higher ed. in KSA (MOHE 2009)
- %61 graduates last year (MOHE 2008)
- %21 of scholarship students worldwide (MOHE 2009)
Distribution of Saudi Students in the USA by Gender (SACM 2002-09)

Number of Students

- Female
- Male

Years 2002 to 2009

Year
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2009
Women and Business

- %40 of family-owned companies
- %30 of brokerage accounts
- %21 of total investments
- %10 real estate in major cities
- %20 of commercial businesses
- SR45 billion cash cash funds
Women in workforce

- %16 general workforce
- %30 government sector
- %48 education sector
- %40 Saudi doctors
- %35 managerial positions
Thoraya Obeid

Lubna Olayan

CEO and Chairperson of the Olayan Financing Company

- 2004 First Saudi woman to be on board of a Saudi bank
- 2005 Time
- 2006 Forbes
Dr. Nahed Taher
CEO Gulf One
Investment Bank

2003-2006 Senior Economist Saudi Hollandi Bank
-2006 First Saudi woman to be CEO of bank in the Gulf Region.
-2006 Forbes
Nora Alfayez

Feb. 2009

First Saudi Female Deputy Minister
Dr. Selwa Alhazzaa

Head & Consultant of Ophthalmology
KFSH

- Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins
- Member of 12 Medical Associations
- Executive Board of Friends of Saudi Arabia
Mona Abu Sulayman

Executive Manager
Kingdom Holding

- TV presenter
- 2006 Young Global Leader
Internationally acclaimed writer and poet

“The Unfurling”

- Public book signing
- Translated into Japanese, Chinese, and Portuguese and Arabic.
- Her works are taught at schools and colleges in Arabia, the U.S, Canada, Singapore, Japan, India and others.
Haifa Almansour

First Saudi Female Film Director

Films:
“Who”
“The Bitter Journey”
“The Only Way Out”
Suzanne Ba’ Aqeel

Saudi photographer

- First collection
  “The Shadow of a Palm Tree”
- Pictures displayed in 120 exhibits worldwide.
- First Saudi woman photographer to join Reuters.
Hanadi Hindi

Pilot, Kingdom Holding

First Saudi female pilot to fly planes in Saudi Arabia.
Marwa Aleifah

Won International Rally for Women, Dubai (2005)