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The Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the Gulf countries that provide outstanding care for their children. This ongoing effort across generations became something that we all are proud of. We foster gifted youths and give them the necessary support that will enable them to develop their talents and abilities.

Since the early beginnings of its modern history, the Kingdom of Bahrain has honored its outstanding students; even before the start of formal education, this tradition honored those who sealed the Holy Quran. Neighborhood residents cooperated in honoring the students and their teachers. Honoring distinguished work continues to be a reward for the work itself, not unlike the situation of the pearl diver who is honored by increasing his margin of profit.

Outstanding students were sent on scientific and professional scholarships to Arab and other friendly countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Pakistan, and India so that they could play distinguished roles in community service when they came back.

Many institutions in the government worked hard to encourage those who were capable of excellence.

Earlier efforts by Ministry of Education:

The flexibility that characterized the ministry and its different directories, as well as the adoption of new ideas and organizing conferences and forums, had a clear impact on the competitiveness of school districts insofar as dedication to providing educational services and fostering gifted students was concerned.

1. Cooperation with specialists

One of the features of the education system in Bahrain is its flexibility in decision making, due to decentralized management of the educational process at the school level; this flexibility is evident in the decision to provide summer sessions to train teachers and parents on how to support gifted students. Other activities are carried out by other institutions on the same topic.

2. Hosting annual conferences and forums

Holding annual specialized conferences to discuss a specific topic from all angles is one of the most important indicators that the ministry is keen on developing the educational process. The conferences provide an opportunity for the largest possible number of educators to participate. Perhaps the most important one (which relates to our theme of "Building Mathematical and Scientific Talent") was the seventh annual high schools teachers' conference, held in April 1991. That conference listed the topic of creativity on its agenda.

3. Flexibility and encouraging the adoption of new ideas

Many school principals make their decisions in a scientific, administrative, and educational way; this approach stimulates the process of creating specialized programs and scientific competitions for gifted students, a process that greatly contributes to achieving the goals of specialized programs, as well as spreading awareness in the school environment about supporting talented students.

4. Ministerial Decrees

Ministerial Decree No. 25/4/1995, dated November 21, 1995, established a Sub-Committee of Special Education to study the possibility of sponsoring students who do extremely well in their studies. The decree also appointed experts in special education to a special education group and awarded them scholarships to study the subject at Arabian Gulf University in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

5. Specialized journal articles and investigations

Many articles about education have been published in education journals, and columnists have discussed numerous issues related to sponsoring talents, creativity, and excellence. The general public response to the columns and investigations was noticed through the number of comments on those articles.

6. Festivals to honor the exceptional

The ministry is keen on holding various annual artistic, literary, and scientific celebrations to encourage a wide variety of talented students to participate in them; at these events, several presentations, symposiums, and concerts are held, and special honors for outstanding and top achievers are awarded.

7. Participation in the Gulf competitions

The Kingdom of Bahrain participated in the Gulf Mathematics Olympiad and won gold and silver medals.

The efforts of others

There are many official entities in Bahrain that embark on fostering gifted students in ways that serve the objectives of those entities. The General Association for Youth and Sports does that through sports clubs; the Science Center, targeted at children and youths, has several programs that encourage students who excel, especially during holidays, weekends, and summer vacations. There are other outstanding initiatives as well, such as the efforts of the Bahrain Society for Child Development, which holds courses, forums, and specialized conferences.

NGOs' Efforts

The Kingdom of Bahrain is home to many Islamic, civil, and charitable associations that carry out specialized workshops, give lectures and seminars on how to encourage the gifted, and increase awareness of talented students and the ways to sponsor, promote, and honor them. The private sector, too, has an impact, providing various incentives for the gifted and for gifted programs. Although support at the private school level is weak, efforts such as the Kano Award for Excellence exist.