Smart Learning

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Overview

The United Arab Emirates strives to prioritize education and endeavors to develop its population in order to create a diversified knowledge-oriented human capital.
With the world undergoing a digital transformation in the methods used to deliver knowledge to the population, it is becoming increasingly important to enhance traditional methodologies. In this document, we intend to highlight the initiatives and strategies of UAE in the field of smart learning.

Need

We are in the forefront of a rapidly changing ecosystem that is fully going digital. An education that provides understanding of new technology at a low-cost creating an ease for students to learn, plays an important role in championing a workforce for UAE that is skilled and can remain competitive in the current complex world.

eLearning and mlearning are important aspects that need focus to ensure an educated and tech savvy generation utilizing the latest technology. This will also help the working population to hone their skills and keep themselves up to date about the latest developments in their respective fields.

The Strategic plan 2017-2021 by the Ministry of Education, UAE aims to instill a culture of innovation in imparting education. Innovations in education are needed to create a generation of students and people who are technologically strong to understand and implement futuristic solutions.

Not just for the learners but the instructors who are imparting knowledge should also be up to date with tools and resources fit enough to deliver and implement smart learning practices. This will create a complete ecosystem of digitally smart knowledge facilitators and students who will work towards a digitally inclusive society.

Initiatives

The Ministry of Education is consistently looking for ways and means to create innovation in education systems leading to a creation of a smart futuristic global society. Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Programme, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University and various e-learning platforms are all examples of the level of importance given to creating new education systems in UAE.

Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Programme

This programme was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The vision of the leader was to create Smart Classes, a unique environment in which knowledge will be imparted to students through high speed networks and smart devices. This is a joint venture between the Ministry of Education and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of UAE in co-operation with the Prime Minister's Office. Creating a solid e-learning platform with active participation from teachers, students and parents is one of the main vision of this programme. This programme will also overlook addition of special training skills to educators and an introduction of new curricula for the same.

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Programme (MBRSLP) hosts various Arab Regional Training sessions in collaboration with TRA and the International Telecommunications Unit (ITU).

This AED 1 billion programme aims to create a shift in learning and education systems by deviating from the conventional and ensuring a smooth transition to digital. The programme collaborates with different education councils to implement the latest techniques in education. The have announced various collaborations including the one with the Sharjah Education Council for smart learning programs such as Smart Radio and 3D Printing projects.

Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University

The [Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University](#) (HBMSU) is led by H. H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and also the President of the University. HBMSU has a vision of educating the innovators of tomorrow that they aim to do by providing high class quality education in the latest technology using smart learning principles. The university is the first accredited e-learning academic institution by the Ministry of Education, UAE and also the first GCC academic institution to become a member in International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE).

It provides courses for lifelong learning to ensure that working professionals get a chance to educate themselves about recent developments in their fields. HBMSU is associated with UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and with multiple reputed academic institutions such as Open University of Catalonia and

professional organizations such as American Society for Quality (ASQ), and European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM).

Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation

H. H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai launched the [Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation](#) in 2007 with an aim to empower and enable future generations with an ecosystem that encourages innovation for creation of sustainable solutions in knowledge and research in the Arab World. This foundation has created and launched programs that help the Arab World broaden their horizons beyond traditional teaching methods.

Among them is, the [Dubai Digital Library](#) holding nearly 2,606,604 digital items and 245,906 titles thereby making it one of the largest digital libraries offering Arabic content. The aim of the Dubai Digital Library is to create and maintain a platform that offers a significant volume of Arabic content by collaborating with famous publications and book houses.

[Qindeel Educational](#) is one of the pioneering projects of the foundation created to perform as a cognitive platform that contains a database of the best systems used in providing training programs and continuous learning programs helping professionals to sharpen and hone their skills. Development of educational systems that use digital curriculum and smart learning technologies in teaching methods is one of the primary focus of the Qindeel project. Qindeel educational conducts workshops that provide sophisticated skills in the fields of administration, finance, self-development, modern environmental systems, science, culture and literature.

Emirates National Gate of Libraries

The [Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development](#) aims to promote intellectual creativity and create a huge repository of knowledge with a national e-platform for digital libraries called the [Emirates National Gate of Libraries](#). There are seven sub projects for the libraries such as:

- [Emirates National Gate of Libraries](#) - a portal providing library and information services
- [Emirates National Catalog of Libraries](#) – a digital search interface among libraries to facilitate searching of relevant information among the libraries and collections

- [Emirates National Program for Library Management](#) – a national union for the UAE libraries contributing to the promotion of the establishments by supporting joint collaboration
- [Smart Library](#) – a digital platform providing employees of ministries and federal governmental authorities of UAE to enrich themselves by the resources available
- [Emirates Digital Library](#) – a large repository of Arabic literature in a digital format
- [Emirates National Directory of Libraries](#) – Maintains the statistics and facts about libraries in UAE
- [Emirates National Bibliography](#) - creates and maintains a bibliographic virtual database for easy access from anywhere.

e-Learning Platforms

Madrasa

Arab students all over the world can now make use of the Madrasa e-learning platform and also the Madrasa App ([App Store](#), [Google Play](#)) to learn lessons in Arabic for the subjects like general science, math, biology, chemistry and physics. It helps improve vocabulary by providing 11 million words of educational content to students from kindergarten to grade 12.

The [1000X1000 competition](#) is a unique competition in the platform that enables student to enter a raffle draw to win $1000 by answering one question a day for 1000 days in the platform. This platform aims to create a knowledge based Arab society focusing on innovation in various sectors.

Duroosi

[Duroosi](#) is a YouTube channel created by the Ministry of Education, UAE in association with Etisalat and Google. It hosts various videos and tutorials aimed to educate Grade 11 and 12 students. The lessons are based on the National Curriculum and helps cut extra tuition costs as it provides information that is easily understandable and enjoyed by the students in a video format.

Al Diwan

Al Diwan is an inter-school platform created by the Ministry of Education to help students and teachers across public schools in UAE to view the curriculum electronically and interact with each other. It also features an e-book reader allowing users to download digital copies of books allowing them to read it anywhere.

Conclusion

The United Arab Emirates takes it pathway to digital dominance very seriously. Various measures have been taken by the UAE government with a mission to inculcate smart learning as one of the educational methods with a vision to create a digitally smart and intuitive global generation.