UAE - The Education System and Study Abroad Trends

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Content

- Discussion about the UAE
- Growth in the education sector
- Growth in population
- Graphs
- Sponsoring bodies
- What next
- Conclusions
The UAE, small in size, but large in vision
Video from Dubai and the UAE

- http://youtu.be/F585Gtp2c0E?list=PLsA4WOXgVx4OZH4WPYvhyVif8q_7KULZs

We can watch them at our leisure
Dubai has a great reputation around the world, its land area is only 67 km

A strip that grow sideways and in the sea
This is how Dubai looks like now
And this is how Dubai looked like when I came in the 70s
Abu Dhabi is the Capital and the largest area in the UAE. It also has the largest oil reserves and funds. When Shaikh Zayed Died he left a legacy that helped build the capital to what it is now.
The construction started in 1975, but oil was found earlier to that.
Even though Sharjah is small and has very little Oil, but it had built its reputation by establishing universities and it was the first to build a dedicated academic city. Also its known for its art, Culture and heritage conservation.
Ajman is the smallest of the 7 Emirates, but has a great promise.
Ras Alkhaimah is seeking partnerships and is helping establish many universities, colleges and schools.
Fujairah had also grown beyond expectations and has few universities and many schools.
Umm Alquwain is very small, still haven’t grown to the same extent as its neighboring emirates but off late they had established free zone to attract some of the business which was distended to Dubai or Abu Dhabi
Population and growth

- Expected to reach 9.9 million by 2016
- Between now and 2020 the number of students are going to reach 13.7 million
- Schools are growing dramatically too, in Dubai only there are over 200 private schools as we speak
- The UAE has over 1350 public schools serving over 700,000 students
- Universities are growing, with over 5 submissions every month (according to KHDA)
Figure 2: NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS BY EMIRATE & SECTOR, 2012/2013
International demand for Tertiary education

The global gross tertiary enrolment ratio (GTER) – that is, the percentage of the tertiary-aged population actually enrolled in higher education – has more than doubled over the past 20 years, growing from 14% in 1992 to 32% in 2012. This compares to an increase of just 4% in the 20 years before 1992. Much of this growth, as the following chart reflects, has been driven by growing participation in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and East Asia. (http://monitor.icef.com/2015/01/research-says-middle-class-aspirations-real-driver-demand-higher-education/)

Some data from the UAE

- Students studying in USA is less than 3000 (http://abudhabi.usembassy.gov/pr-111413.html)
- UAE has 34,122 inbound students (overseas students studying here), against 7,719 outbound students (local students studying abroad). These figures have put the UAE at No. 1 position in net flow ratio of inbound and outbound mobile students, while most of the other Arab countries have a negative ratios, dropping to -52.1 in the extreme case of Djibouti. (http://www.emirates247.com/uae-tops-arab-countries-in-ratio-of-inbound-and-outbound-students-2014-02-16-1.538440)
Schools data

- Dubai has 158 private schools offering programmes to more than 243,000 students. Private schools cater to over 89% of the student population of Dubai and 57.4% of Emirati students choose to attend a private school. As well as different curricula, private schools also offer a wide variety of fee levels to cater to different sections of society. [Source](http://www.khda.gov.ae/Pages/En/epearlychildhoodandschools.aspx)

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Local universities

- In 1971 there was one university
- In 2014 we have 135 universities
- Some of these universities are branches of international universities and some are private institutions
- Ranking is important for students and only few are ranked out of these universities
- CAA, ADEC, KHDA and other free zone authorities are the main awarding bodies for establishing new universities
Expansion in Study abroad

- Increase in education abroad budget
- Many sponsors are now sending their staff abroad such as ADEC, MOHE, Diwans of the rulers, Police, Army, Adnoc, Eppco, Takreer, the local universities, MOFA, Municipality, Dubal, Emal and some other private companies
- The next slide shows some stats on the types of programmes scholarships are given for (extracted from MOHESR website).
## Scholarship By Specialization In 2010

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<th>Specialization</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Number (female)</th>
<th>Number (male)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Number (female)</th>
<th>Number (male)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Number (female)</th>
<th>Number (male)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Number (female)</th>
<th>Number (male)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>710</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>Total</td>
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</table>

Total number of scholars: 710
EXPO 2020

- Expo 2020 Dubai is expected to attract 25 million visits, 70 per cent of which will be from overseas. This will be the first Expo in which the majority of visitors stem from beyond a nation’s borders. Running from 20 October 2020 through 10 April 2021, the Expo will launch the country’s Golden Jubilee celebration and serve as a springboard from which to inaugurate a progressive and sustainable vision for the coming decades (http://expo2020dubai.ae/en/index.php)

- It is expected that many companies will set up in the UAE in preparation for the EXPO, hence increased number of students
Why is it lucrative to be in the UAE

- Ease of establishment
- Assurance of high quality programmes
- Visa assurance
- Plenty of jobs and internships
- Prospect of assured jobs after graduations (many universities have career fairs to encourage local employers to hire their graduates)
- Good accommodation
- Variety of shops and activities (in actual fact too much variety)
- The only disadvantage is the cost. Not many students can afford the cost of living here
Increase in Private colleges

- Due to ease of opening private universities in the UAE, many investors had opted to do this.
- Another reason for opening here is the visa restrictions in other countries.
- However, to me, a private provider must think of why open a university: if for profit, then it will not work, if to provide high quality education, then profit is guaranteed.
- The objective of making money can work but may not last forever as it had to be combined with provision of high quality products. So a shift in the focus will have to happen for UAE education to be the best.
Problems in the UAE system

- Students choose business studies as the main major, then engineering (50%)
- Labour market needs other majors
- This is mainly due to lack of career counseling and advise in schools
- According to the NQA report measures are underway to address this issue.
- Quality assurance in higher education is only maintained in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, many small bogus universities have opened in other emirates that are mainly profit driven.
International bodies and their concerns

- PISA
- Unesco
- UN

All of these are showing some concern over the quality of higher education and also K12 education.

See next slides goals, which we are trying to achieve.
The assurance for high Quality: Unesco Education for all Movement-2015 goals

- Improving early childhood education
- Ensuring all children have access to free education
- Ensuring young adults have equal access to life-skill programmes
- Improving adult literacy by 50%
- Achieving gender equality in education
- Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.
Conclusion

- Even though inbound students are way more than outbound students, there is still a huge market for international higher education.
- Most of the local private universities are serving international students that are not able to go overseas due to visa and other restrictions.
- International education is still considered as a way of life and a tradition to local students.