

The contribution of the National Human Rights Committee in providing information for the report on ensuring quality education for peace and tolerance for every child - Human Rights Council Resolution 54/5

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(i) The Curriculum Department at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education is responsible for developing and enhancing the general framework for various subjects and courses across different stages of education, in line with the Ministry's policy and its approved educational goals.

Among the Ministry's responsibilities is to monitor and integrate best practices and evidence-based research within the Qatari cultural and social context to improve and advance the educational process.

(ii) The Ministry of Education has established a clear vision and a set of core values upon which it operates. The vision is: "A pioneering learner for sustainable development." The mission is: "We establish an inclusive and innovative environment that enhances values and ethics, and equips teachers with high-level skills to prepare a conscious generation capable of building an advanced society and a prosperous economy."

The Qatari curriculum generally includes educational values, goals, and principles that encompass all Islamic values and Qatari and Arab cultural heritage. It places special emphasis on rights, responsibility, personal integrity, empathy, respect for others, and openness to other cultures.

The curriculum also incorporates values such as cooperation, participation, communication, problem-solving, respect for diversity, tolerance, active and responsible citizenship, commitment to sustainable development, and values-based and family education. All these values, goals, and principles aim to foster a culture of human rights within the educational and societal environment.

(iii) In the State of Qatar, private schools and community schools are licensed and allowed to offer their own curricula. In addition, the Ministry provides curricula tailored for various groups, such as individuals with special needs, gifted students, early education, and specialized education.

(iv) The National Human Rights Committee, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia, conducted a study to assess the state of education in Qatar. This study covered several key areas, including the impact of curricula, textbooks, and teaching methods on the awareness of girls' rights, gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities, the relationship between children's creativity and the educational curriculum, among other human rights topics. This collaboration led to the development of a "Human Rights Education Guide" for primary, preparatory, and secondary stages.

2. The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) formally requested the Ministry of Education to utilize the "Human Rights Education Guide" for integration into the curricula. In October 2019, the Ministry of Education and the NHRC signed a memorandum of cooperation to implement the Arab Plan for Human Rights Education, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level.

According to the provisions of the memorandum, the NHRC, in coordination with the Ministry, is responsible for developing a plan to promote human rights culture within educational institutions. The NHRC also provides technical expertise and necessary consultations in all fields related to human rights and the international standards governing them, particularly those related to their incorporation into the curricula at various educational stages and other aspects related to implementing the aforementioned plan.

During the signing ceremony, educational guides on human rights for preparatory, primary, and secondary stages were launched, as a preparatory step for their integration into the curricula of these three stages.

Teachers receive support, advice, and training from the NHRC through annual programs that include dozens of schools, aiming to convey human rights concepts to students using innovative and practical methods drawn from children's everyday lives, avoiding direct lecturing or rote memorization.

The NHRC also works on training educational staff to utilize the mentioned guides and encourages their use within the educational curricula and school activities.¹ Qatar has systematically worked to promote a culture of human rights since 2006, based on international references, including:

1. General Assembly Resolution 59/113 (A) issued on December 10, 2004, which announced the establishment of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

¹ The awareness campaign for school students for the academic year 2023-2024 included the organization of awareness lectures and visits to several schools as follows:

1. Awareness lecture for students of Ibn Al-Haytham Primary School for Boys - 20 September.
2. Awareness lecture for students of Tariq Bin Ziyad Secondary School for Boys - 21 September.
3. Awareness lecture for students of Mesaieed Independent School - 26 September.
4. Awareness lecture for students of Doha Independent Preparatory School for Boys - 27 September.
5. Awareness lecture for students of Al-Yarmouk Preparatory School for Boys - 4 October.
6. Awareness lecture for students of Al Jazeera Academy – Boys - 5 October.
7. Awareness lecture for students of Al Jazeera Academy – Girls - 12 October.
8. Awareness lecture for students of Muither Preparatory School for Girls - 1 November.
9. Awareness lecture for students of Qatar Preparatory School for Girls - 7 November.
10. Awareness lecture for students of Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School – Boys - 9 November.
11. Awareness lecture for students of Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Preparatory School – Boys - 15 November.
12. Visit by students of Qatar Science and Technology Secondary School – Boys to the Committee's headquarters - 16 November.
13. Awareness lecture for students of Sukaina Bint Al-Hussain Preparatory School for Girls - 20 November.
14. Awareness lecture for students of Al-Bayan Primary School 2 for Girls - 22 November.
15. Awareness lecture for students of Tiba Primary School for Girls - 23 November.
16. Awareness lecture for students of Al-Shahaniya Preparatory and Secondary School for Girls - 27 November.

2. General Assembly Resolution 59/113 (B) issued on December 10, 2004, which adopted the revised plan of action for the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-2007).

Through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education launched by the United Nations, each entity is tasked with applying the program within its area of expertise to ensure comprehensive implementation and avoid duplication.

The first phase (2005-2009) focused on the obligation of states to establish a national committee for human rights education, responsible for developing a comprehensive plan and teaching human rights in schools. This role was undertaken by the NHRC, as mentioned earlier.

The second phase (2010-2014) emphasized the obligation of states to provide training programs for teachers, civil servants, law enforcement officials, and military personnel. This role is fulfilled by various governmental and non-governmental institutions, including the Ministry of Justice, the NHRC, civil society organizations, the United Nations Training and Documentation Center, and UNESCO.

Regarding the third phase (2015-2019), the program focused on the state's duty to enhance the implementation of the first and second phases, strengthen human rights training for media professionals and journalists, and prepare a mid-term progress report to be submitted to the Human Rights Council.

Various institutions provide training programs, including Qatar Media Corporation, the Doha Centre for Media Freedom, the United Nations Training and Documentation Center, and UNESCO.

4. The State of Qatar has successfully implemented the law of compulsory and free education, ensuring equal access to schooling for all children, both male and female, across all regions of the country. Administrative regulations strictly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment for children in schools.

An example of positive developments in the field of education is the collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Qatar Foundation's "Education Above All" program, and the Ministry of Endowments. This cooperation led to the opening of schools within Qatar (Assalam Schools 1 and 2) to educate the children of resident families facing financial difficulties. This initiative was followed by the opening of Assalam Schools 3, 4, and 5.

Additionally, the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue was established in 2010 to foster dialogue between religions. Its goal is to promote a culture of interfaith dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and the application of religious values to address humanitarian issues, as well as to spread the culture of dialogue and the values of peace.

Residents in Qatar practice their religious rites and rituals in designated places, whether in mosques, churches, or embassies, while adhering to legal regulations. Moreover, all communities enjoy the right to establish their own schools, teach their native languages, and celebrate their events and festivities.

The NHRC also strives to raise awareness and provide education. For instance, it organized the Third Conference on Arab-Ibero-American Dialogue under the theme "Combating Hate Speech,"² in collaboration with the Arab Network and the American Network of National Human Rights Institutions. The conference was attended by representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and various human rights organizations and centers, including the Doha Center for Interfaith Dialogue.

5. Qatar dedicates sufficient resources to empower institutions to fulfil their duties, including those related to human rights such as the Human Trafficking Prevention Committee, Qatar Foundation for Social Work, particularly the Child and Woman Protection Foundation and Social Development House, Qatar Red Crescent, and the National Human Rights Committee. These entities have carried out numerous educational, cultural, training, and media activities, targeting various groups:

- General Public: Through media campaigns and public invitations to attend seminars and lectures.
- Vulnerable Groups: Including children, women, people with disabilities, and workers.
- Police officers, prison staff, lawyers, judges, educators, curriculum developers, armed forces, and staff of governmental and service agencies.
- Schools, universities, and commercial institutions.
- Civil Society and Religious Institutions.

The training courses and media campaigns in Qatar aim to raise awareness about the provisions of international human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and conventions concerning the rights of the child, persons with disabilities, and the prevention of torture and all forms of cruel or degrading treatment. Additionally, they address International Labour Organization conventions and other standards relevant to specific professions or human rights-focused fields.

Between 2003 and 2013, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development collaborated with the RAND Corporation. The RAND-Qatar Policy Institute provided essential support to leadership in making impactful decisions, resulting in significant changes in planning, organizing, and delivering social services.

Qatar also established the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), a global educational initiative by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development.

6. As part of its international initiatives, Qatar has emphasized providing quality education to those deprived of it due to poverty, conflicts, natural disasters, and discrimination.

In 2012, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser launched Education Above All Foundation, which encompasses several global programs such as Educate A Child,

⁻² The conference was held in Doha from 15 to 16 September 2015.

Al-Fakhoora, and Protecting Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC), as well as Reach Out to Asia (ROTA).

These programs aim to ensure that all children in the developing world benefit from their right to education, especially those out of school. The foundation is particularly committed to serving the world's most marginalized groups by building capacity, mobilizing resources, and forming multi-sector partnerships and alliances.

Since 2012, the Educate A Child program has been recognized as one of the best practices of the Education Above All Foundation, in partnership with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), to help children in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East access education.

The foundation has provided high-quality educational programs to over 17.2 million children and youth through 100 global partners in more than 65 countries, reflecting Qatar's commitment to providing quality education for all, regardless of the challenges and obstacles preventing children and youth from accessing education.

These programs include building schools, offering scholarships, and providing innovative educational resources. Notable programs include Al-Fakhoora, Reach Out to Asia, Educate A Child, and Protecting Education in Insecurity and Conflict, collaborating with nine United Nations agencies to achieve their educational and humanitarian goals in diverse contexts.

The foundation also partnered with UNICEF in countries like The Gambia, Paraguay, Somalia, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and others, where over 5.3 million children were out of school. The Protecting Education in Insecurity and Conflict program works with UNICEF as part of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, aiming to establish international standards for accountability for attacks on education. The Al-Fakhoora program has also collaborated with UNICEF in Gaza to improve the educational environment and support the mental health of approximately 756,987 children, while the Reach Out to Asia program works with UNICEF to support the education of 263,888 children in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal.