



## **An Assessment of Female Participation in Vocational and Technical Education: A Case Study of the College of Technological Studies, Kuwait**

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### **Abstract**

Several studies on female participation in vocational and technical education, in some cases particularly relevant to specific countries, have been conducted. A sub-regional workshop was convened by UNESCO Sub-regional Office in Southern Africa. It was outlined that many countries required to seek the shortfall of national human resources in science and technology from other countries. As such Women participation cannot be neglected out. The factors for enhancement of woman participation, and teachers' attitudes to improve positive image of women in vocational and technical education were identified. The greatest impediment to women's access to such education was due to socio-cultural barriers often due to parental opinions, cultural and social norms. The education system is generally gender biased and the government commitment is critical to the success of female participation. Teachers view scientific and vocational education as more important to boys than girls. It was suggested that curricula should be more flexible for scientific and technical subjects, and not to make such subjects optional to attract more females.

The purpose of this research is to identify different factors involved in the female participation in vocational and technical education in Kuwait, particularly in the College of Technological Studies. Also methods are examined by which the process of female participation could be enhanced. An extensive field work comprising of relative literature, questionnaire to female graduates/students and personal interviews was carried out. Though the female participation, in general, is matching with the male participation and in some instances exceeding too, there are certain sectors in vocational and technical education where female participation is minimal and needs to be encouraged. A greater female participation will not only help in reducing the dependence on expatriates manpower, it will contribute to a better social and cultural environment. Awareness raising is also needed for both employers and female employees for the importance of female participation in vocational and technical education.



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