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Women and Higher Education in Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to review women and higher education opportunities in Saudi Arabia. Various databases were searched for keywords ‘Saudi Arabia + higher education + women’, ‘Saudi Arabia + women + education’, and ‘Saudi women + graduates’. The results were shortlisted as per the year of publication and a few of the studies were selected for a review. The review found that higher education for women in Saudi Arabia has been subject to multilevel and multifaceted challenges. The review of research studies identified that in Saudi Arabia, the opportunities for higher education for women have increased due to changes in government policy. The study also identified that despite these improvements, the level of education required to provide equality of access across the country, has not been met. The findings of the review revealed that it is important to develop both female leadership capacity as well as effectiveness in Saudi Arabia’s higher education.

Keywords: Women, Higher Education, Saudi Arabia, Review

A Review of the Effectiveness of Social Media Platforms in Complementing University Education in South Africa

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to review of the effectiveness of social media platforms in complementing university education in South Africa. Various databases were searched for keywords ‘social media + South Africa’, ‘social networking + South Africa’, ‘social media platform + university education’ and ‘university education + South Africa + social media’. The search yielded 2343 papers and out of these 15 were selected for a review. The review found that social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook complement university education in South Africa. However, the most of the papers reviewed indicated that despite the positive benefits yielded by using social media platforms in university education, there are challenges which exist such as ICT literacy and uneven access. It was found that digital inequalities mirrored the pattern of social inequalities in the country, with personal/household internet access being limited. The study has implications for the government, students, pedagogues and education policy makers. The findings from the research can be used to inform school as well as government policies. One of the limitations of this study is that most of the literature reviewed was for masters’ level students and the findings may not be applicable to bachelors’ level students.

Keywords: University Education, South Africa, Social Media, Effectiveness

A Review of Domestic Abuse in Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to review the reporting of domestic abuse in Saudi Arabia. Various databases were searched for keywords ‘Saudi Arabia + domestic abuse’, ‘Saudi Arabia + reporting domestic abuse’, and ‘Saudi Arabia + reporting abuse’. The search yielded 2535 papers and out of these 25 were selected for a review. The review found that domestic violence occurred frequently in Saudi Arabia and that social conditions as well as social relations are strongly linked to domestic violence against Saudi women. The selected studies discussed about how Saudi Arabia has ratified several human rights conventions including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), but there are still many legal restrictions on women due to the prevalence of Shariah. Many of the selected research studies discussed the risk factors for spousal abuse and the common ones amongst these were alcohol or drug addiction, unemployment, physical aggression towards other men, and control of family wealth etc. The findings of this review have implications for the government and healthcare sector. One of the recommendations that came out of the review was that improvement at implementation level of policies as well as multisectoral services may be able to prevent women from domestic violence.

Keywords: Domestic Abuse, Violence, Saudi Arabia, Review