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The Difficulties Faced Saudi Students in the US

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Introduction- There are many obstacles that face Saudi Arabian students at American universities. As a Saudi Arabian student, it is important for our home country to provide all financing for medical, educational, and any related expenses because they are vested inproviding an opportunity where people from Saudi Arabia can get a quality education from an excellent educational institution. Saudi Arabian students face obstacles including language barriers, technological adjustments, being separated from family and friends as well as adjusting to the cultural differences (Kim, 2011). It takes a great deal of commitment and motivation to achieve the accomplishment of obtaining a degree from an American university.

What are the difficulties that face Saudi Arabian students at universities? My reason for choosing this problem is that my husband's learning skills didn't improve in the institute. So, I want to explore the learning difficulties he encounters at the institute. I decided to look for the difficulties that face Saudi students at U.S. institutes by first making interviews with Saudi students at the institute.

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The Difficulties Faced Saudi Students in the US

Dr. Maryam Alomair

I. Introduction

There are many obstacles that face Saudi Arabian students at American universities. As a Saudi Arabian student, it is important for our home country to provide all financing for medical, educational, and any related expenses because they are vested inproviding an opportunity where people from Saudi Arabia can get a quality education from an excellent educational institution. Saudi Arabian students face obstacles including language barriers, technological adjustments, being separated from family and friends as well as adjusting to the cultural differences (Kim, 2011). It takes a great deal of commitment and motivation to achieve the accomplishment of obtaining a degree from an American university.

What are the difficulties that face Saudi Arabian students at universities? My reason for choosing this problem is that my husband's learning skills didn't improve in the institute. So, I want to explore the learning difficulties he encounters at the institute. I decided to look for the difficulties that face Saudi students at U.S. institutes by first making interviews with Saudi students at the institute. I wanted to ask them about the status of education in the classroom. I asked them about their teachers and how the teachers deal with them. In addition, Iexplored and inquired about the problem using different resources such as: peer-reviewed academic journals and academic articles. Moreover, I still have some question about this problem, for example:

- Does having male and female students in the same class affect their learning?
- Do all students encounter the same difficulties?

While working on this project, I learned a great deal. All students should learn how to adapt with the new life and make sure that their customs and traditions do not affect or control their educational experience. In addition, they should try to become enterprising and engage with the society they live and study in. Moreover, they need to make contact with the people and try to interact in social activities like charity and volunteering, or even sports. Eventually, they will become more confident in dealing and benefiting from the educational environment whether they had to deal with male and female teachers. Furthermore, they must acknowledge the importance of communicating with their friends in class rooms despite different cultures, genders, and social backgrounds between them (Kim, 2009). They will gain a greater chance to achieve a successful educational experience when they do as such.

Educators have duties to become open-minded to the variety of their students' customs and traditions. They should be tolerant, respectful, and nonbiased to the different cultures of their students (Khawaja & Stallman, 2011). Additionally, they must accept the fact that not all students come from the same background or have the same experience in life. Therefore, it is necessary for educators to make a significant effort to dismiss the stereotyping within different cultures. In addition, they have a responsibility to conduct research and investigate reasons why some students have a low level of performance. Getting this information will enable instructors to teach more effectively and students to succeed in their educational experience (Littlemore, Chen, Koester, & Barnden, 2011).

I think this issue has a deep relation to my job. In my country, Saudi Arabia, we have separate schools for girls and boys. Because of that, there are some girls that feel too shy to participation and talk. My duty as a teacher will be to meet with them and try to identify the cause of the shyness. It will be to determine if it is a psychological cause, social cause, or a lack of understanding for the subject. We should always encourage students to participate and interact in the classroom to accomplish their goals.

There are many ways that knowledge would be found and created. Initially, I would have meetings and conversations with managers and administrative staff of the university. That would enable me to identify what the cultural environment was from a professional perspective. I would also speak with the students to get their perspective as well. From there, I would create activities and implement changes that would assist in acclimating the students to a new culture.

The students would benefit from my planned activities and social initiatives. I would create social activities that include more than an icebreaker on day one. Each week, students would need to speak on a campus activity or event of interest for a few minutes during the beginning of class. It would help them to overcome shyness and increase their ability to communicate with the class. There could also be a short question answer segment to increase interaction to an even greater degree. Students would be learning about

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their educational organization and how it affects the community in which everyone lives.

There are additional interventions that can assist all students. The institution can host cultural community days where they focus on international students and the countries they come from. On these days, booths can be set up in the student union or in an area that is traveled heavily by students. Information will be made available about what the differences in cultures are compared to American cultures and why different cultures, dress and have the lifestyle that they do. Short online learning activities and surveys could also be made available so that students can ask and view information at their leisure when it comes to various cultures on campus. A blog could also be developed where students can ask questions, read information, and share their thoughts on cultural likes and differences.

II. Conclusion

In conclusion, there are many benefits to obtaining a degree but a great deal of challenges for the international student. There are things that could and should be done to assist in the transition of leaving one's home country and coming to America to gain an education. Students should be educated on American customs and lifestyles so that students will know what to expect beforehand. There should be continuous learning seminars and educational opportunities including field trips and hands on experience that help international students adjust to the new life style. Some people fail because of the barriers. I would leave them with some advice from my experiences. Don't let the customs control and consume your life. Change is always going to be a part of life. One must adapt because in the case of Saudi Arabia, the government has provided you with a phenomenal opportunity and this is your future. So, don't be afraid to live and learn.

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