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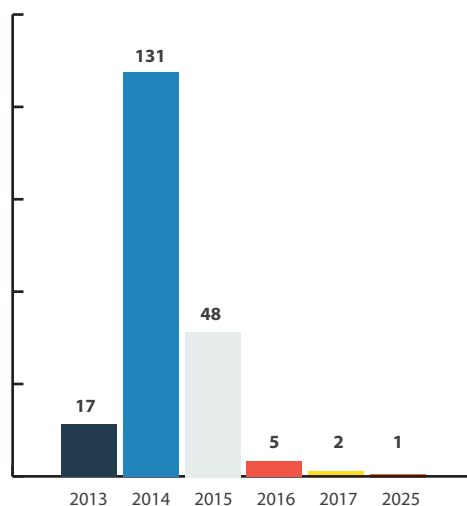
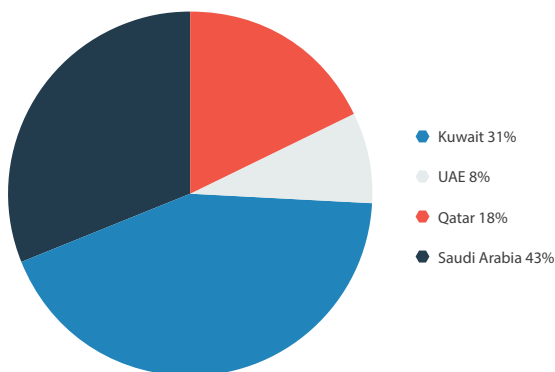
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EDUCATION

EDUCATION IN THE GCC

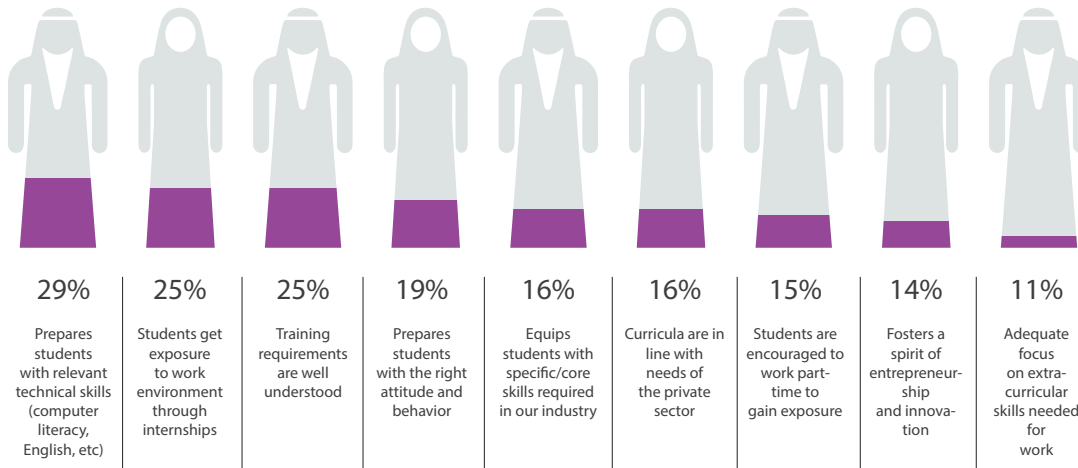
According to data from Zawya (Middle East Business, Industry and Investment News), GCC members have committed ~USD23.6 billion in 214 educational institution construction projects. These projects are expected to be developed predominantly over 2013–17. GCC member Kuwait's one project is to be completed by 2025.

Key spenders would be Saudi Arabia (42.9%), Kuwait (31.3%), Qatar (17.5%) and the UAE (8.2%). Bahrain and Oman's spends are miniscule compared to the rest of the GCC members. Most projects are expected to be completed by 2014 (61.2%) and 2015 (22.4%).⁽¹⁾



BUT, DOES THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE GCC MEET THE NEEDS OF BUSINESS?

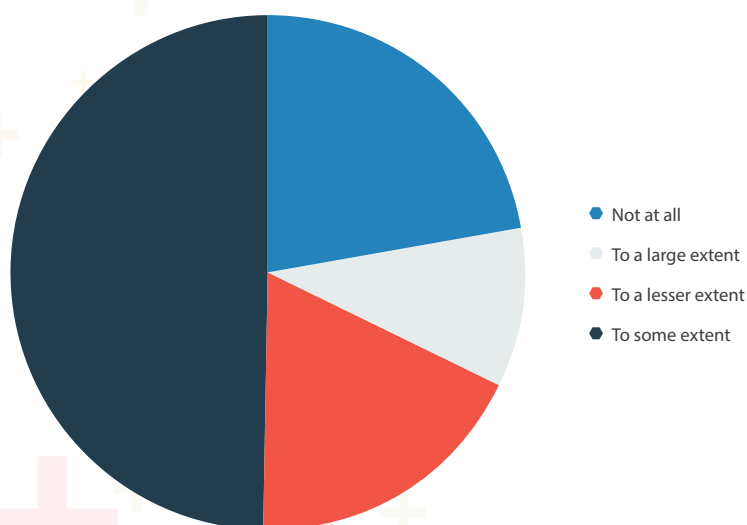
Employers do not believe that the education system prepares young people with the requisite skills, training, and attitudes for the workplace, or that educational institutions understand what is required by business. Only 29% of employers feel that education prepares students with necessary technical skills and only 19% agree that it prepares young people with the right attitude for work.⁽²⁾



AND, WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE GCC THINK?

Young People Are Concerned That They Are Not Prepared to Succeed in Their Careers

“TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN YOUR COUNTRY HAS PREPARED YOU/ IS PREPARING YOU TO SUCCEED IN YOUR CHOSEN CAREER?”⁽³⁾





WHAT COULD BE DONE TO FILL THE SKILLS GAP?

There are four initiatives — all requiring collaboration between companies, educators, government and students themselves — that would help GCC countries to bridge the gap between what the changing economy needs and the skills and attitudes that students currently learn.

1. ALIGNING CURRICULA WITH EMPLOYERS' NEEDS

Companies need to have more input in shaping and driving course toward their specific requirements and to developing a workforce supply that aligns with what the market demands.

2. DEVELOPING THE WORKFORCE THROUGH EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Workplace experience is vital to bridging the gap between employment and work. It can align expectations of the job, boost interest in a career or company, foster professional behaviors and soft skills, and provide essential hands-on training.

3. PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT CAREERS

Educating young people about employment opportunities — ranging from career choices to specific job openings and application processes — is as important as providing skills. Limited access to information about careers prevents graduates from working toward the jobs they want.

4. ENCOURAGING A CULTURE OF EMPLOYMENT, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

It is understood that encouraging a culture among GCC youth in which work is seen as attractive and rewarding is a priority that underpins the success of education-to-employment initiatives. ⁽⁴⁾



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D3 Consultants is a private educational consulting company operating in the GCC specializing in turnkey solutions and educational management services serving investors and capital investment companies, private and public K-12 schools, universities, training centers, and early childhood nurseries.

www.d3consultants.net

1. Source: Zawya, Al Masah Capital Research
http://almasahcapital.com/uploads/report/pdf/report_89.pdf

2. Source: EY Perspectives on GCC Youth Employment,
<http://www.jef.org.sa/files/EY%20GCC%20Youth%20Perspectives%20on%20Employment%20JEF%20Special%20Edition%202014.pdf>

3. Source: Booz & Company Youth Survey,
http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/wp-content/uploads/library/2011_Youth_GCC_Countries_Meeting_Challenge_Eng.pdf

4. Source: EY – How will the GCC close the skills gap?,
[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-gcc-education-report-how-will-the-gcc-close-the-skills-gap/\\$FILE/GCC%20Education%20report%20FINAL%20AU3093.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/EY-gcc-education-report-how-will-the-gcc-close-the-skills-gap/$FILE/GCC%20Education%20report%20FINAL%20AU3093.pdf)