

The reverse gender divide in the United Arab Emirates

Factors driving 'him' away from higher education

Sanaa Ashour

Author/ Source

1- Who is the author(s) ? Is the author an expert in this field?

Dr. Sanaa Ashour

Yes, she's an expert in this field . Her researches interests are primarily focused on examining higher education institutions and students' experiences within these institutions and how these affect educational processes.

2- What is the source of the text ? is it trust worthy ?

This text was written according to a deep study based on the foundations of correct scientific research . It was published in "Journal of Applied Research in Higher Education".

.Yes, It is a trustworthy source

3- When was it published? Is it recent?

It's recently published as the article was published on 19 February 2020, while the issue was published on 15 December 2020.

4- Who is the intended audience ?

This article is excellent for scholars of gender specialists and their impact on the educational process, decision makers, educators, and feminist writers.

5- What is the author's purpose? Is it a neutral purpose (e.g. to explain or to inform) rather than a more biased purpose (e.g. to persuade)?

I think the purpose of this article is purely illustrative (neutral) All opinions were based on previous studies. So that the writer did not make the only reason for the lack of male access to higher education is only the gender gap, but the article reviewed other influencing factors such as .the family, policy makers, peers, and others

The evidence

1- How strong is the evidence ? Mention Example?

Almost all the evidences are strong , they depend on studies , numbers , Nothing was written randomly and the tables show it. Example : "The number of females is three times that of males in all specializations except engineering"

Table V shows that, in public HEIs, enrolled female students outnumber males in all majors except engineering. Among graduates of public universities .

2- Are all the points made by the author supported by evidence? (Mention at least one example)

In fact, no. Not all of the points mentioned have been supported by evidence. There are some general points mentioned without evidence such as;

"It is apparent from the literature review that the differences found thus far are not enough to explain the reverse gender gap in educational achievement because the degree of difference varies between countries, while the reverse gender gap exists in most countries."

3- Does the writer avoid making unsupported generalization? (If yes how?

Yes, the writer has avoided general points that are not supported, so that the responses are allocated. The responses were classified separately. A space was allocated to discuss learners of both sexes, as well as teachers and experts. With mentioning the field of study of the respondents.

4- Is there a clear distinction between the fact and the author opinion? Support with evidence.

Yes, the objectivity was clear in this article. The writer left the space for previous studies in presenting the facts and used the questionnaire and the responses of the respondents to appear in the summary and results. The evidence

In this typical patriarchal system, girls are married at a young age and then move to their husband's home. The main responsibility of the husband is to care financially and provide security for his family. Since the onset of modernisation in the UAE, gender roles have slowly changed, particularly since women joined the "labor market

We can note from this context that the writer sheds light on the nature of Emirati society, but in an objective way, with a clear example when she mentioned that power is transferred from the existing male lineage

5- Are citations used ? If so, are the cited sources trustworthy and recent ?(Yes/No How?)

Yes, many citations were used in the article, supporting every point that was mentioned. I've tracked down some citations and opened links which are really real, trustworthy and up to date from 2018 and 2017, also we have old citations, but also they are useful and trustworthy.

Example

- 1- <https://www.thenational.ae/uae/uae-ranks-highest-for-gender-equality-in-gcc-says-human-development-report-1.737261>
- 2- <https://www.thenational.ae/uae/women-continue-to-dominate-uae-federal-colleges-and-universities-1.622982>.

6- If there are any images or diagrams, are they clear? Do they relate directly to points in the text and support the author's argument?

There were no pictures or illustrations, the writer used tables only to illustrate the numbers and they were useful and related to the points mentioned by the writer in the article.

My Reflection

In your own words, summarize the article. (150-200)

This article was written by Dr. Sana Ashour. It was published in 2020 to examine the reverse gender divide in the United Arab Emirates to identify the social, cultural and familial factors underlying this phenomenon. Analysing data drawn from a total of 292 undergraduates and 18 experts using questionnaires. Studies have shown that the educational choices of both sexes are influenced by many logical and social factors such as social beliefs, family and peers. For example, the family gives space,

freedom, and time for males to explore external experiences. This reduces their focus on academic education, while limiting females' freedom inside the house increases her desire to look to the future and to higher studies. As well as the educational environment surrounding males, which follows the traditional method, which is suitable for females due to their calm and patient nature. Things are different for males, with their dynamic nature, which needs a variety of methods of education. The responsibility lies not only with the family and the school in reducing the gender gap in education, but also with decision makers who encourage males not to care about education by offering high-paid jobs without an educational qualification. The article recommends the future research will examine how the causes of the gender gap can be mitigated through social change and institutional interventions.

What conclusion does the author(s) reach? Do you agree with the article? Why/Why not?

The author explains the phenomenon in a very clear and objective way. Mention the factors to reach the results and recommendation to find methods which can help in reducing the gender gap in education in UAE.

I can't agree more with all the perspectives mentioned in the article. The author used the voice of the facts and the respondents' points of views to explain the phenomenon. The ability to study an international phenomenon and apply it regionally was excellent.