

## EDUCATION AND ECONOMY: ARE THEY PARALLEL?

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### ABSTRACT

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said steered a new era in the history of Oman since his ascension as the Sultan of Oman. Developments in various and important areas like education, health and employment pay glowing tributes to the great visionary.

This paper focuses on nursing education in two contexts namely Sultan Qaboos University and Ministry of Health. It concentrates on nursing education specifically as one of the researchers is employed in Ministry of Health where nursing education is one of the specialties. The purpose of this research-based paper is to look at the programs, intake and employability of students during the past five years in order to assess the effect of this education on the economy of Oman.

In furtherance of achieving this purpose, a small-scale research has been conducted in the above-said contexts. The data have been obtained in the following areas: increase/decrease in the intake of students, courses offered, duration of the courses and adherence to standards of quality, annual results, consequent employment, and opportunities for nursing graduates. The data thus obtained was analyzed using statistical measures and compared across the period, keeping in the forefront the following research question.

**KEYWORDS:** Employment, Nursing Education, Oman Economy, Omanization, Research