

agencies for complete eradication of illiteracy based on a specific time schedule.

- To raise the share of holders of high educational degrees required by the education system.
- To provide more support to educational research to serve the objectives of qualitative development, and evaluate tests and the drop out and repetition phenomena in all stages.
- To continue implementing a comprehensive health program in coordination with MOH (medical checks, immunization campaigns and medical treatments of students).
- To enhance cooperative transport services provided to students, and to expand the scope of school transport services provided to female students by the private sector.

## **B. Higher Education**

- Continuing assessment of university curricula.
- Establishing new colleges, departments and programs in universities in line with the requirements of development and the labor market.
- Improving the level of internal efficiency of institutions of higher education, and reducing the average number of years spent for graduation to 4.5 years for four-year programs, 5.5 years for five-year programs and 6.5 years for six-year programs.
- Achieving student/teacher ratios of (1/22) in theoretical studies, (1/17) in science disciplines and (1/5) in the medical fields.
- Sending not less than 10% of faculty members on scholarships to obtain doctorate degrees, based on the

needs of each university and the available fields of specialization.

- Increasing the number of post-graduate students in institutions of higher education to at least 5% of total university students.
- Supporting post-graduate studies in various colleges by creating new programs for master and doctorate degrees, with emphasis on applied, engineering, medical and natural sciences.
- Expanding adoption of cooperative education mechanisms in higher education institutions in colleges which are appropriate to this type of education.
- Meeting the public and private sectors' demand for labor through coordination between the higher education institutions and both sectors for provision of the necessary skills.
- Boosting coordination between higher education institutions and the GCC General Secretariat.
- Upgrading the scientific capabilities of research centers at universities to enable them to assume their tasks of serving the community and solving pertinent problems.
- Establishing more specialized scientific societies and expanding the scope of their activities.
- Supporting and expanding scientific research projects at universities, conducting studies necessary for ensuring qualitative development of the university, and diversifying the fields of scientific research.
- Increasing the number of training courses, preparatory programs and parallel education and increasing enrollment in line with the needs of the labor market.