

FOREWORD

The Saudi Arabian government is developing and implementing various initiatives for the promotion of higher education in the country. It includes development of educational process, expansion of graduate study programs, consolidation of scientific research and furnishing it with suitable environment through science parks, techno valleys and centre of research excellence. The constitution of National Commission for Assessment and Academic Accreditation (NCAAA) was to ensure the quality by raising the competency levels.

Sustained growth and diversification of higher education systems are evinced through the quality of programs offered and as a result there is increase in public assessment and international comparison of higher education institutions. Institutions develop and implement mechanisms to promote best practices in teaching and learning. Teaching and learning are the two sides of a coin and the most accepted criterion for measuring quality of teaching is the assessment of student learning and achievement of prescribed learning outcomes. There are multiple dimensions and criteria for improving the learning practices and skill formation in higher education. The proverb, 'More you learn, more you earn' explain the importance of higher education and employability.

The present book empirically analyses some of the important issues dealing with teaching and learning at the higher education level with an emphasis on Saudi Arabia. It include the relevance of time management in class room management, analysis of assessment standards in business studies, application of blended learning and its resultant effects on academic

performance of regular and parallel studies, importance of academic quality and ranking, and analyses of school to work transition. Data collected from Yanbu Industrial College is used as the major source of input for analyses in this book along with primary survey among youth and secondary sources. The authors are sure that this book will be of immense source of information to educationists who are involved in the field of policy related to higher education and in particular in the Middle East countries.

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