

## **CHAPTER SIX**

# **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**



## **6. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **6.1 Key Indicators**

Since the beginning of the Kingdom's recent modernization drive, development plans laid considerable stress on human development as an extremely significant element of the country's comprehensive socio-economic development strategy. Achievements made in this area over more than three decades reflect the considerable efforts and resources exerted to ensure welfare of citizens, develop their capabilities and to improve their living conditions. Most notable of these efforts are those exerted during the Seventh Plan, and along the directions of the Eighth Plan as reflected the achievements made in its first year 1425/26 (2005). The said efforts emphasize that the citizen is the main focus of sustainable development, as well as, the means and end of the country's development process. The many achievements realized in the Kingdom including those which highlight the progress in human resources development in the Kingdom, not only local criteria of comparison, but also by international standards, particularly the standards that are applied in the annual issues of the World Human Development Reports

published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Indeed a qualitative shift has been achieved by the Kingdom over the duration of the five-year development plans in terms of the levels of education, training, health care and social services, as can be seen in the following indicators:

1. The number of hospitals in the Kingdom increased from 74 with 9039 beds in 1390 (1970) to 363 hospitals with 51,130 beds in 1425/26 (2005), while the number of physicians rose from 1172 to 40,265 and the nursing staff from 3261 to 78,587 and the medical technicians increased from 1741 to 44,853 over the same period.
2. Enrollment in all educational institutions increased from about 547,000 male/female students in 1389/90 (1969) to more than 5.37 million in 1425/26 (2005), or by an average annual growth rate of 6.6%. The female students' enrollment in these institutions increased significantly over the same period, at an average annual growth rate of 8.6%.

This has been associated with an increase of investment expenditure on construction of facilities necessary for educational purposes, recurrent expenditure such as wages, salaries, and educational

services expenditure, as well as maintenance of such facilities. Currently, the Kingdom has 19 universities, 102 girls' colleges, 28 technological colleges, 68 technical education institutes and vocational training centers, 4215 secondary schools, 7086 intermediate schools and 13,163 primary schools.

3. The positive results achieved through the spread of education and training are underscored by increased employment opportunities made available to citizens, which increased from 1.18 million in 1389/90 (1969) to about 2.84 million in 1420/21 (2000). The number of jobs reached to 3.74 million in the first year of the Eighth Plan 1425/26 (2005).
4. The attention paid to the provision of decent housing is evident through the establishment of housing units by the government and REDF's easy-term loans arrangement. In addition provision has been made for services such as water, electricity, waste-water drainage, roads, telecommunications, transport and other public services. The success of this policy is reflected in the progress of the real estate investment in the construction of private housing. The value of investment in private housing stood

at SR 280 million in 1389/90 (1969), increased to SR 2.5 billion during the First Plan. The real estate investments continued to increase over the successive development plans keeping abreast with the increased demand for housing to reach, in the Seventh Plan, 57 folds of the real estate investments in the First Plan, or about SR 143.5 billion. The directions of the Eighth Plan reflect the continuity of this trend.

5. The government continued its support to the citizens through the social security pensions, which increased from about SR 39.4 million in 1389/90 (1969) to about SR 2.57 billion in 1425/26 (2005), as well as the assistance provided to those with temporary needs, which went up from about SR 2.3 million in 1389/90 (1969) to about SR 436.1 million in 1425/26 (2005).
6. Indicators of the considerable achievements in human development are reflected in the indicators of the tangible raise of the citizens' standards of living, particularly the value of household consumption, at current prices, which went up from SR 7.16 billion in 1389/90 (1969), in current prices, to SR 17.57 billion by the end of the First Plan, and to SR 118.24 billion by the end of the

Second Plan, SR 201.23 billion by the end of the Third Plan, jumped to SR 240.48 billion by the last year of the Fifth Plan and to SR 252.22 billion at the end of the Sixth Plan. Household consumption increased from SR 258.1 billion in the first year of the Seventh Plan to SR 282.5 billion during the last year of the Plan, and to about SR 303.2 billion in the first year of the Eighth Plan.

7. The continued progress in education, health and social care accompanied by an accelerated economic development leading to an increase in Saudi population growth rate during the 1974-1992 period, which amounted to 3.9% annually. The death rate is declining, consequently, average life expectancy at birth increased from 61 years in 1411 (1990) to 74.3 in 1426 (2005).
8. During implementation of the past seven development plans and up to the first year of the Eighth Plan, substantial achievements were made in the development of women conditions in the Kingdom, particularly in the domain of education and health. The gap has been abridged in the indicators of enrollment between both genders at the primary, secondary and

university education levels. Furthermore, net enrollment rates for girls at the primary level increased to 93%, to 65% for intermediate and secondary level and to 33.2% for the university education in 1425/26 (2005).

Abridgement of the gap in enrollment rate for both genders on the one hand, and the considerable increase of net enrollment rates for girls on the other hand, not only leads to enabling girls to obtain education and acquire required skills, but also to preparing them to participate in the labor market in a fair manner. Over the past period, female participation in the labor market increased in a clear manner as women participation rate in the work force increased from 5.4% in 1412 (1992) to 15.45% in 1425 (2004). While this percentage indicates the limited participation of women in the workforce, yet it shows the progress made in this respect over recent years. This percentage is expected to increase at higher rates during the coming years, particularly with the growing attitude of women to join the labor market after obtaining educational certificates.

As a result of the large investment support of development plans in the development of the health sector, the Kingdom has succeeded in reducing maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth to 12 in 1426 (2005). Moreover, the rate of deliveries under supervision by health professionals increased to 96% in the same year, a matter which reflect advanced health coverage for family and children throughout the Kingdom. Consequently, the Eighth Development Plan relies on a sound base of achievements in this field, so that it will effectively contribute in realizing its directions and objectives regarding the conditions of women in the Kingdom.

In order to achieve human development objectives, several programs and projects included in the seven development plans have been implemented. A key step in this regard has been the Council of Ministers' decree issued on 25/4/1422 (2001) to set up the Human Resources Development Fund, with a mandate to pursue measures contributing to intensive and continued human resources development. This is carried out through offering subsidies and/or sharing in the cost of training and

qualification of manpower to ensure their employment in the private sector. The Fund's board of directors determines the amount of subsidy and the percentage of the share of cost with the employer who will benefit from qualification of the trainee. A key feature of the Fund's policy is that it assumes payment of a certain percentage of the employees' salary, for a maximum period of two years, while the balance of the salary will be borne by the employer. The Fund assumes other responsibilities within the context of the support it provides to funding of field-training-programs as well as research and study projects aimed at Saudi manpower employment and replacement of the expatriate workforce. The Fund also offers loans to private sector firms involved in qualifying and training of national manpower, that seek to expand or introduce modern technologies in their activities. In addition, the Fund undertakes research and studies in qualifying, training and employment of national manpower, and offers technical and management advice to businesses involved in training and qualifying of Saudi nationals.

The sources of revenues for the Fund consist of fees decided by the government in favor of the Fund. Other

sources of funding include grants, assistance and endowments that the Board of Directors may decide to accept, return on investments of the Fund's resources, fees for the services offered, and the payments collected by the Fund in the context of its lending activities.

## **6.2 Investment Expenditure in Human Resources Development**

The government's attention to human development has been clearly evident in the huge financial resources allocated to finance programs and projects that have been formulated to achieve human development in the course of the country's development plans. In the First Plan, human development received substantial allocations to the tune of SR 7 billion, or 20.6% of the plans' total investments, while the allocations of social and health development amounted to SR 3.5 billion, or 10.3% of total investments.

With the increase of oil resources and revenues during the Second Plan, the investment allocations for human development went up by about seven-folds to reach SR 51 billion, or 14.7% of total investments. On the other hand, the allocations for social and health development increased by about eight-

folds to reach SR 27.6 billion, or 8% of total investment allocations.

During the Third Plan, allocations for human development sector increased by more than two-fold to reach SR 115 billion, or 18.4% of total allocations, while the allocations for social and health development increased by more than two-folds to SR 61.2 billion, or 9.8% of total allocations. In the Fourth Plan, expenditure rates remained at high levels, as allocations for human development stood at SR 115.1 billion, or 33% of the total allocations while those of social and health development amounted to SR 61.9 billion, or 17.7% of total allocations. This implies that the share of both sectors increased to 50.7% of total developmental investments in the Fourth Plan.

Government expenditure on these two sectors rose significantly during the Fifth Plan when human resources development allocations reached SR 164.6 billion, or 48% of the plan's total investment expenditure, while social and health development allocations stood at SR 68 billion, or 20% of the total allocations. Thus, the share of both sectors raised to 68% of the Fifth Plan's total investment allocations. However, this trend enjoyed significant support during the Sixth Plan period as the

human resources development allocations increased to SR 216.6 billion, or 51.5% of the development sectors' total allocations, while those of social and health development went up to SR 87.5 billion, or 20.8%, thus both sectors accounted for an overwhelming share of 72.3% of the total development sectors' investment allocations.

The Seventh Plan witnessed a substantial increase in the allocations of human development sector, including its basic pillar, the education sector, as well as social and health development sectors, all of which enjoyed 21.5% increase compared with the Sixth Plan's allocations. This came in harmony with the objectives of development plans and to keep a breast with economic development and new technologies that emerge world-wide, as the need has increased to develop citizens' educational and knowledge capabilities along with providing training and skills to individuals, thus enabling them to keep abreast with the information revolution and communication technology, and to use these tools to enhance production and productivity in particular and to improve the quality of life in the Kingdom in general.

During the Seventh Plan, human

resources development allocations amounted to SR 276.9 billion, or 57% of the plan's total investment for development sectors, while allocations of social and health development reached SR 92.6 billion, or 19.1% of the total development sectors' allocations. This mean that 76.1% of the plan's total investment allocations went to programs and projects of education, health and social services as shown in table (6.1). The Eighth Plan has maintained this dimension in development priorities as the financial requirements for human resources development as well as social and health development increased by about 25.6% to reach SR 464.1 billion, or about the same relative importance that prevailed in the Seventh Plan. This substantial investment share was made possible as the infrastructure was already in place coupled with the expanded role of the private sector in the process of economic development.

**Table (6.1)**  
**Financial Requirements of the 7<sup>th</sup> Plan**  
**S.R. Billion**

<b>Development Sector</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Plan</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Plan</b>
Human Resources Development	276.9	347.6
Social and Health Development	92.6	116.5
Economic Resources Development	54.4	71.0
Infrastructure Development	61.4	79.5
<b>Total Allocations</b>	<b>485.3</b>	<b>614.6</b>

### **6.3 Education; the Main Pillar of Human Development**

The advancements made in the field of education and related techniques as a key element of human development have contributed in upgrading the citizen's capabilities to cope with domestic and international socio-economic and technological developments. In this area, government educational institutions played a significant role over the past three decades.

#### **6.3.1 Educational Institutions**

Education has steadily expanded since the start of the First Development Plan. The number of schools and colleges falling under government educational institutions increased from 3283 in 1389/90 (1969) to 26,247 in 1425/26 (2005).

The number of boys' schools went up from 2772 in 1389/90 (1969) to 12,424 in 1425/26 (2005) while girls' schools increased from 511 to 13,489 over the same period. The intensive attention given to girls' education resulted in the growth of the number of girls' schools faster than boys' schools. The average annual growth rate of girls' schools reached 9.5% compared with 4.3% for boys' schools.

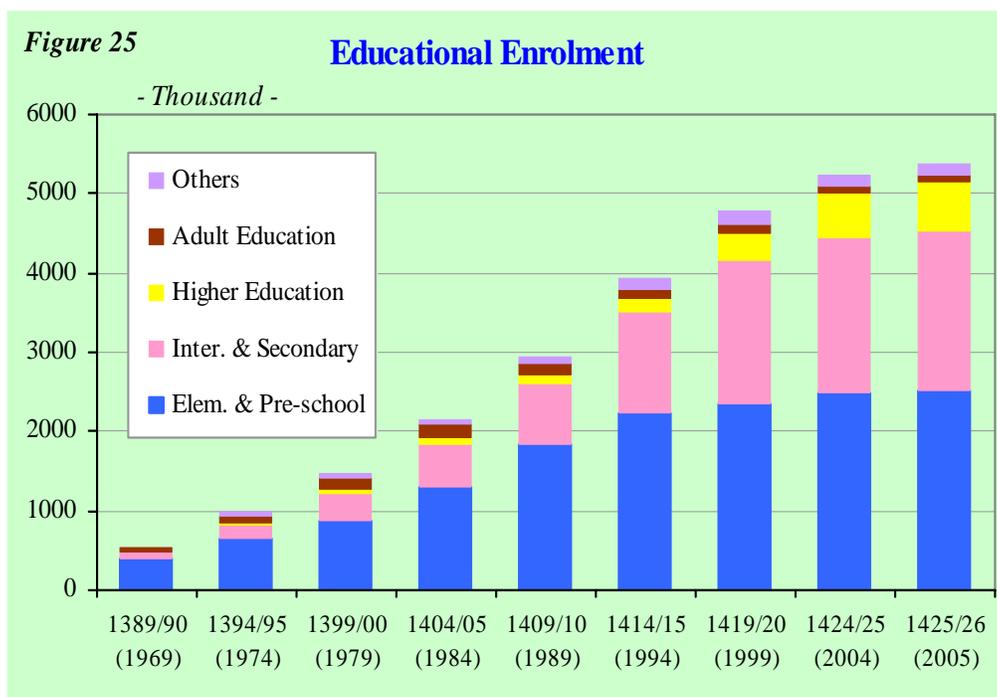
#### **6.3.2 Number of Male and Female Students**

The number of male/female students in all general and higher education stages increased from about 547,000 in 1389/90 (1969) to more than 5.37 million in 1425/26 (2005).

The number of primary stage male/female students increased from 397-thousand students in 1389/90 (1969) to about 2.42 million in 1425/26 (2005). This means that the number of male/female students has increased by more than six-folds in this educational stage, throughout the period of the development plans.

The number of intermediate and secondary stages male/female students increased from 77-thousand to about 2.03 million over the same period, which also means that the number of the students of this stage has increased by more than 26 folds throughout the past thirty-six years.

Also the dramatic increase in the number of the students in intermediate and secondary stages reflect a significant aspect of the qualitative shift attained in human development and the dramatic changes in the cultural background of the society and its



growing attention to provision of education to the younger generation.

The number of higher education male/female students increased substantially from 7000 students in 1389/90 (1969) to 604 thousand students in 1425/26 (2005). This indicates that the higher education male/female students increased by more than 86 folds in all fields of specialization.

The student/teacher ratio in general education improved from 22.7:1 in 1389/90 (1969) to 14:1 in 1425/26 (2005). Moreover, female student/teacher ratio has improved, as it fell from 27.3:1 in 1389/90 (1969) to 11.6:1

in 1425/26 (2005). This reflects the successful efforts exerted for upgrading educational efficiency and standard.

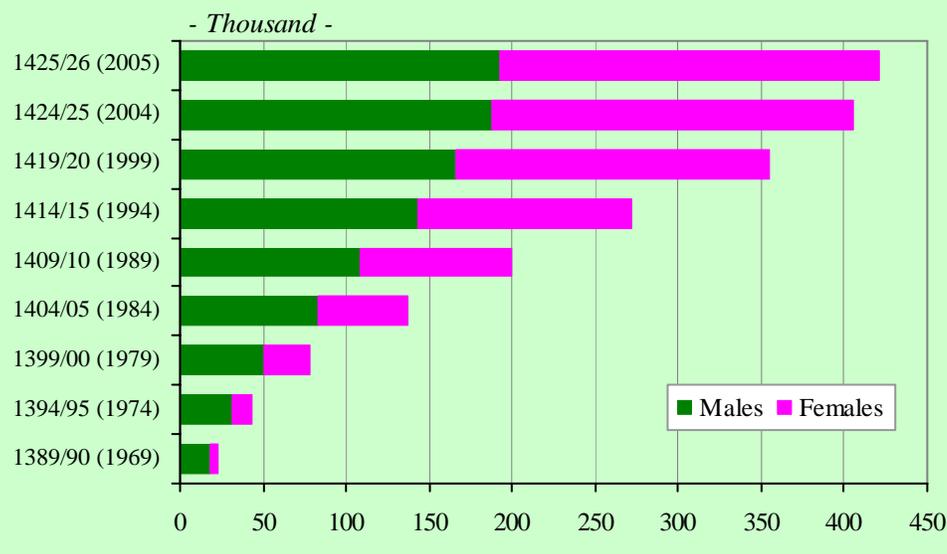
### 6.3.3 Number of Male/Female Teachers

Due to the rapid expansion of the education system, the number of male/female teachers increased from about 23.1 thousand in 1389/90 (1969) to around 421.6 thousand in 1425/26 (2005), or by about 18.2-folds. This was done to meet educational requirements at the highest efficiency rates.

The number of male teachers at boys' schools increased from about 18.2 thousand in 1389/90 (1969) to about 193 thousand in 1425/26 (2005) while

**Figure 26**

**Number of Male and Female Teachers**



the number of female teachers at girls' schools went up from about 4.9 thousand to 214.9 thousand over the same period. The total number of male/female teachers in 1425/26 (2005) rose by 15,804 compared to the preceding year 1424/25 (2004).

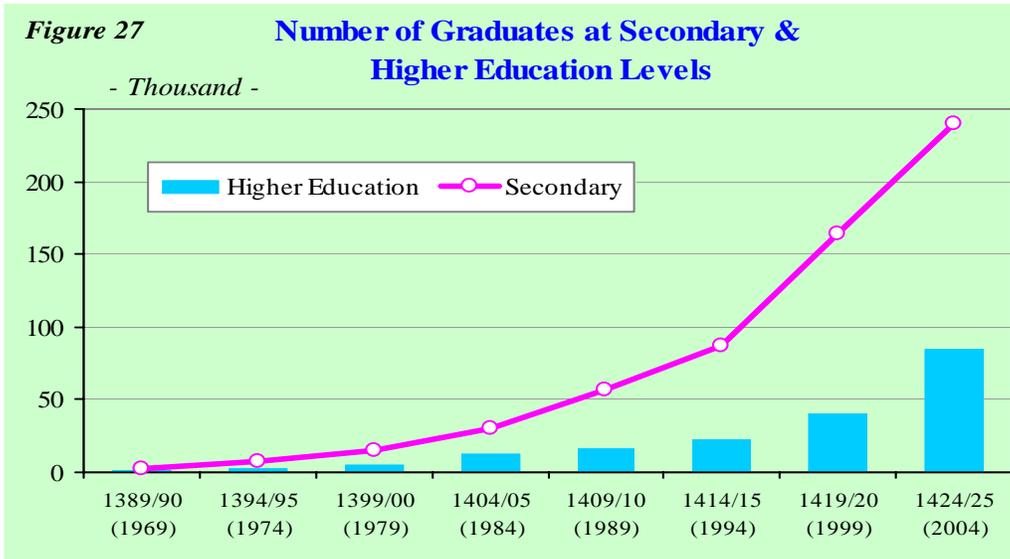
### 6.3.4 Male/Female Graduates

As a result of the substantial expansion of educational facilities along with the increased number of male/female students, the number of male/female graduates at the secondary stage increased from 2806 in 1389/90 (1969) to 15,568 in 1399/00 (1979), then to 30,493 in 1404/05 (1984). In 1424/25 (2004), the number of male/female graduates increased substantially to 239,379. The average annual growth rate of male/female graduates stood at

13.5% during the period 1389/90-1424/25 (1969-2004).

The number of male graduates at the secondary stage rose from 2437 in 1389/90 (1969) to 9057 in 1399/00 (1979), then to 118,070 in 1424/25 (2004), or at an average annual growth rate of 11.7%. The female graduates' growth rate was higher than that of male graduates. The number of female graduates grew at an average annual rate of 18% from 369 in 1389/90 (1969) to 6511 in 1399/00 (1979), then jumped to 121,309 in 1424/25 (2004).

The number of male/female graduates at higher education, both from local and foreign universities, increased from 808 in 1389/90 (1969) to 5124 in 1399/00 (1979), to 12,812 in 1404/05 (1984)

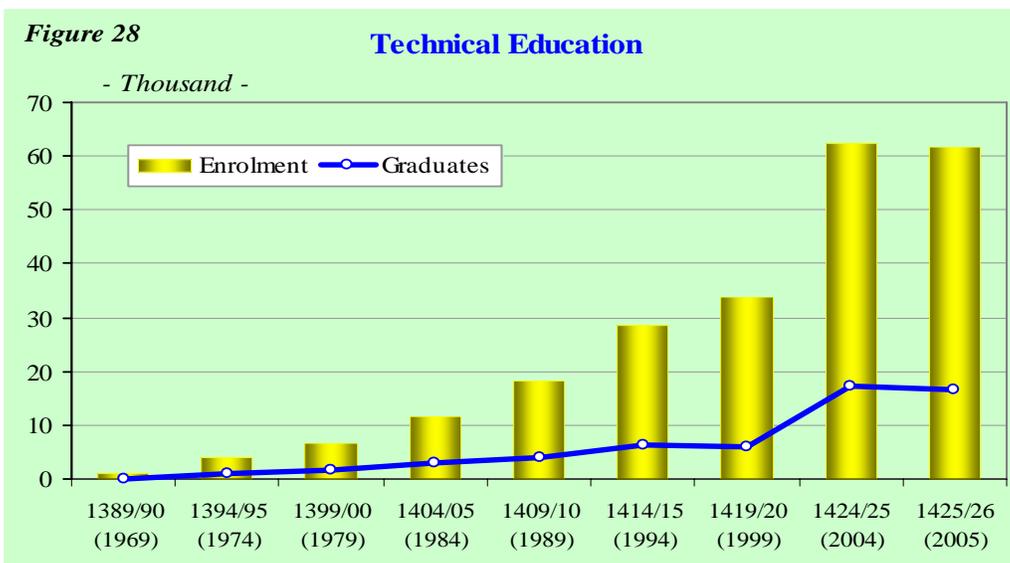


and to 84,091 in 1424/25 (2004). During 1389/90-1424/25 (1969-2004), the number of graduates grew at an average annual rate of 14.2%.

### 6.3.5 Technical Education

Technical education indicators show the significant attention paid to this type of education in order to meet the various economic needs in production

and service sectors. Thus, the number of enrollment at technical education schools and institutes increased from 840 in 1389/90 (1969) to 61,640 students in 1425/26 (2005), or by more than 73.3 folds over the same period. The number of graduates at technical education schools and institutes reached 16,723 in 1425/26 (2005).



### 6.3.6 Vocational Training

The enrollments at vocational training centers increased over the duration of the successive development plans up to the first year of Eighth Plan by more than 22-folds, from 578 trainees in 1390/91 (1970) to 12,877 trainees in 1425/26 (2005). The number of trainees graduated at vocational training centers increased by about 22 folds from 417 in 1390/91 (1970) to 9,178 in 1425/26 (2005).

### 6.3.7 Institute of Public Administration (IPA)

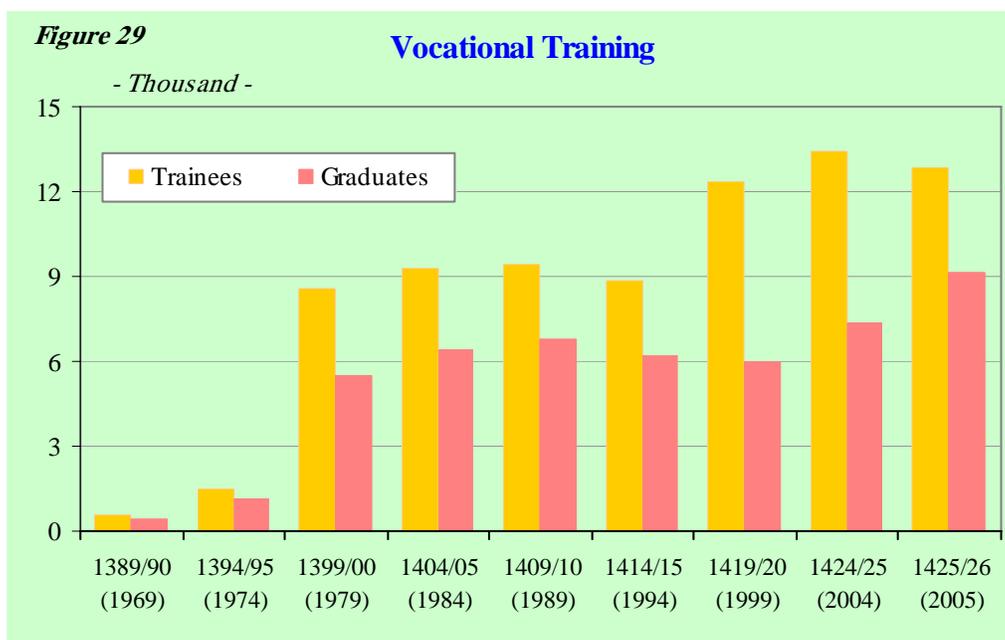
In the context of the attention paid to provide on-going training at all levels, IPA was established via Royal Decree # 93 of 24/10/1380 (1960) to upgrade the efficiency of government employees

and prepare them professionally and practically to resume their responsibilities and exercise their powers in a manner that would ensure enhancing the standard of management and work, and support development of the national economy.

At present, IPA contributes in the administrative regulation of government administration and renders advice about administrative problems, conducts research related to management affairs and ensures close cultural links in the administrative sphere.

#### 6.3.7.1 Training Programs

IPA provides training programs that encompass top management programs (applied seminars and symposia). The



number of graduates in these programs reached about 4001 up to 1425/26 (2005) IPA also provides preparatory programs (pre-service training) for university and secondary level graduates in addition to programs on marketing, banking, hotel and insurance management for the private sector with the aim of training graduates to join civil service or private sector establishments. The duration of these programs extended to 2-3 years or one training term. The number of graduates in this field reached about 1802 in 1425/26 (2005).

IPA provides training programs (in-service) and implements special programs for some government agencies as per their request. The total number of graduates of these programs reached about 36,246 so far. Generally, the total number of graduates of IPA programs up to 1425/26 (2005) reached about 43,132, or by an average annual increase of about 11% during the period 1389/90-1425/26 (1969-2005).

#### **6.3.7.2 Consulting Services**

IPA provides consulting services encompassing several fields including review and improvement of rules and regulations, organization of office work, computer, microfiches, work procedures and financial affairs. Thus,

the total number of consultations conducted by IPA reached 1741 during 1381/82-1425/26 (1961-2005).

### **6.4 PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION**

Development plan have paid due attention to expansion and improvement of public health services to citizen through implementation of several health programs and projects in all parts of the Kingdom. Significant achievements were made in this vital field.

The Ministry of Health is the major government agency entrusted with the provision of preventative, curative and rehabilitative health care for the Kingdom's citizens. The Ministry provides primary health care (PHC) services through a network of health care centers (1858 centers) throughout the Kingdom. It also provides specialist curative services through general and specialist hospitals (212 hospitals with 30,020 beds).

The military and security institutions provide health services for their staff and other segments of the general public while school health units, affiliated to the Ministry of Education

provide primary health care for students. On the other hand, the General Organization for Social Insurance and the General Presidency of Youth Welfare provide medical services to certain categories of the population while the Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu provides health services for its staff.

The Kingdom's universities provide specialist curative services through their specialist medical hospitals as well as medical education and training programs. Furthermore, they also conduct research in collaboration with other research centers on health related matters.

King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center uses highly advanced technologies and highly qualified international medical cadres to provide advanced specialist curative services for citizens whose cases require such advanced medical care. The research center at the hospital also conducts research in medical areas to fulfill needs of the society.

The Saudi Red Crescent Society undertakes significant tasks in the domain of emergency services throughout the Kingdom in addition to its unique services for pilgrims and

Umrah performers at the Holy Places.

The private sector is keeping abreast with the process of health development in the country by undertaking tasks that complement government services through several health facilities, the service quality of which is supervised by the Ministry of Health. These facilities comprise 113 hospitals with 11,135 beds, 1043 dispensaries. The number of health manpower at the private sector's health establishments reached 12,788 physicians, 17,810 nurses and 8041 assistant technicians. The private sector also contributes in the manufacturing of drugs and medical supplies as well as supplies medical equipment and appliances along with operation of some government health facilities.

Due to the attention devoted by the government in providing health services to all citizens, significant achievements have been realized in this area over the successive development plans. During the period 1390/91-1425/26 (1970-2005), the number of hospitals increased from 74 hospitals with 9039 beds to 363 hospitals with 51,130 beds while the number of health centers went up from 591 to 4,008 over the same period. This period also witnessed the increase in total number of physicians from 1172 to 40,265 and

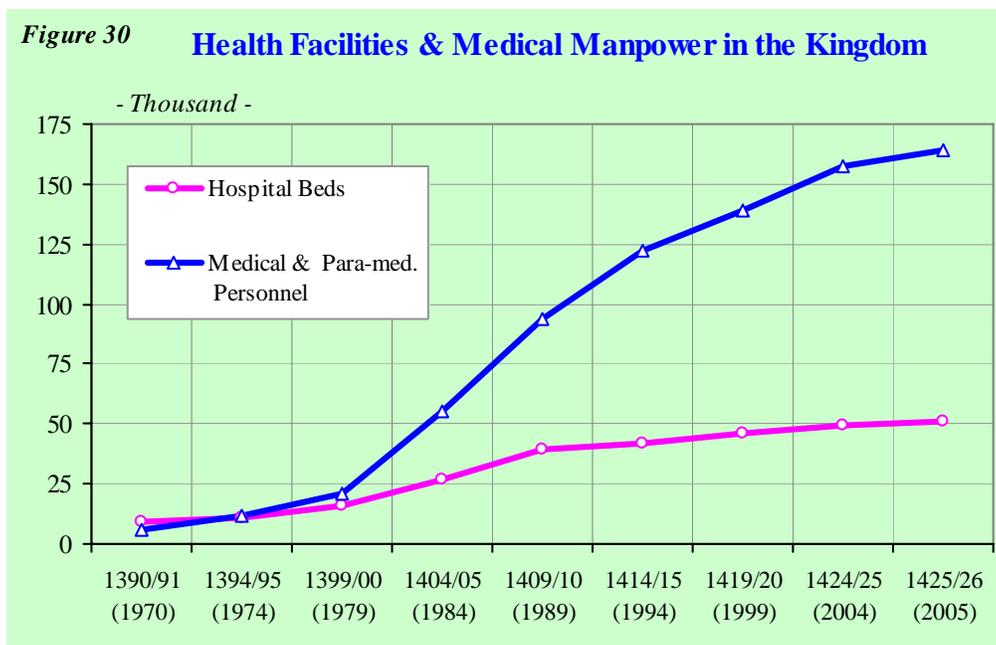
the increase of nursing staff members from 3261 to 78,587 male/female nurses while the number of allied health personnel including pharmacists increased from 1741 to 44,853.

The aforementioned achievements have contributed in raising the health services standard. This is clearly reflected by the significant decline in infant mortality rate from 118 cases in 1390 (1970) to only 18.5 cases per 1000 births in 1425/26 (2005). Furthermore, the rate of infectious diseases per 100-thousand inhabitants declined to the minimal levels i.e. to zero for poliomyelitis and 0.03 for diphtheria and 0.09 for whooping cough. On the other hand, life expectancy increased from about 53

years in 1390/91 to about 74.3 years in 1425/26 (2005).

Development efforts continued to upgrade health standards and provide health care to all citizens, through health programs and projects of the successive development plans aimed at matching the growing health services, on the one hand, with the continuous endeavor to enhance service efficiency and upgrade health standards on the other. The Eighth Plan, therefore, seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Continue providing preventive and curative primary health care and improve their accessibility through primary health care centers along with ensuring continuous support of specialist curative services.



- Prepare, develop and Saudize health manpower in order to meet the quantitative and qualitative needs.
- Application of the smart card system, tele-medicine and expansion in the application of health insurance system.
- Provision of emergency medical services at higher efficiency levels.
- Revision of existing management structures and adoption of new structures.
- Revision of existing mechanisms and procedures related with service quality control.
- Realization of full linkage between health centers and public hospitals.
- Enhance the role of the private sector in providing health services and financing the construction and management of health facilities.

## **6.5 PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO CITIZENS**

Social services provided to the citizens encompass a wide range of multifarious services and activities necessary for different social segments and families whose conditions entail providing them with particular types of support and assistance to ensure decent life within the context of firm belief in the genuine Islamic values in ensuring care for the society and individuals, particularly needy persons due to their particular

health and social conditions, disabled, widows, orphans and other segments with special conditions. In addition they provide social insurance to the public sector employees as well as private sector workers.

### **6.5.1 Social Affairs**

The Ministry of Social Affairs undertakes provision of all aspects of social care and rehabilitation to the needy families and individuals due to their special health and social conditions. It helps them to overcome the problems which they confront. As such, the Ministry of Social Affairs renders its services to children with special needs, paralyzed, handicapped, orphans and juvenile vulnerable to delinquency and to the elderly. It also endeavors to maintain family ties, protect children and underscores the role of women in rendering the family care.

These services are provided through a network of facilities which by 1425/26 (2005) rose to about 18 care homes and institutions for male/female orphans, 23 care homes and institutions for male/female juvenile vulnerable to delinquency, 2 care institutions for paralyzed children, 30 centers for rehabilitation of handicapped, 10 care homes for the elderly, 12 offices for

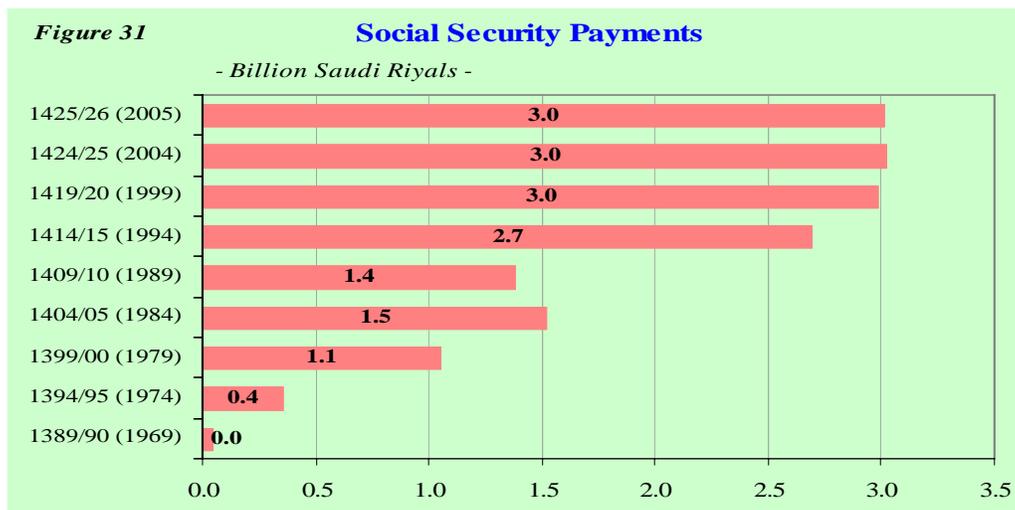
control of vagrancy as well as 343 charitable societies including 24 women societies. These societies render a wide range of care and services to the disabled and paralyzed children, provide financial support to needy families, provide training programs for women and organize cultural lectures and symposia. The Ministry of Social Affairs supports these societies with technical, financial and material assistance.

During 1425/26 (2005), a number of male/female orphans, handicapped and paralyzed persons benefited from these services. Social care services were provided to 659 elderly persons while 357 handicapped received rehabilitation services and have thus become productive citizens. Financial support provided for home care foster families taking care of children with special

conditions (orphans) totaled SR 74 million and the number of beneficiaries reached 4607 persons. Total financial support provided to charitable societies increased from SR 4 million in 1395/96 (1975) to about SR 129.4 million in 1425/26 (2005).

### 6.5.2 Social Security

The Ministry of Social Affairs provides assistance to the disabled citizens, divorced or widowed females, orphans, handicapped persons and prisoners' families. It also provides relief assistance to victims of natural disasters. During the period 1389/90-1425/26 (1969-2005), the total annual amounts paid to beneficiaries as (temporary) relief assistance rose from SR 2.3 million to SR 436.1 million, at an average annual growth rate of 15.7%.



The total annual amounts paid to beneficiaries by Social Security, in the form of regular assistance schemes increased from SR 39.4 million in 1389/90 (1969) to more than SR 2.57 billion in 1425/26 (2005), at an average annual growth rate of 12.6%. This accounts for about 84.2% of total assistance paid by the Social Security in 1425/26 (2005).

### 6.5.3 Social Insurance

The cumulated number of social insurance on-the-job subscribers increased from about 145.4 thousand workers and employees in 1393 (1973) to 2.79 million in 1425/26 (2005). The percentage of private sector workers covered by social insurance accounted for about 94% of total workers covered by social insurance in 1424/25 (2004).

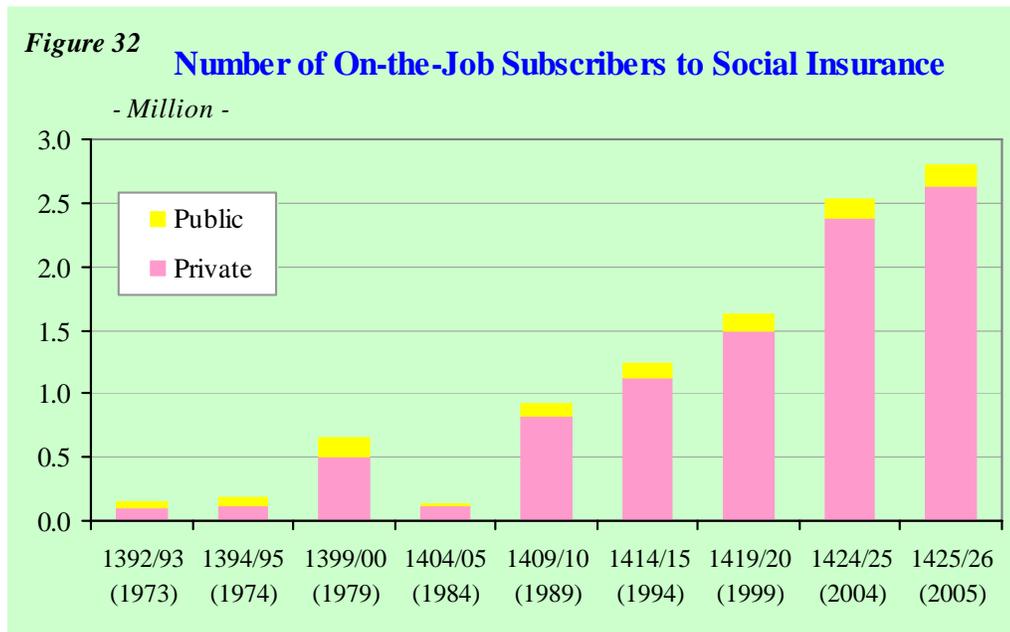
The cumulative number of establishments covered by social insurance increased by 84-folds from 1062 in 1393 (1973) to 105,462 in 1425/26 (2005).

## 6.6 JUDICIAL, HAJJ, INFORMATION AND YOUTH SERVICES

The development plans have dedicated clear attention towards judicial, hajj, information and youth services along with providing of financial requirements to ensure expansion and development of these services and to meet quantitative demand in all region of the Kingdom.

### 6.6.1 Judicial Services

Since its foundation by late King Abdul Aziz Bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud, the



Kingdom continued to support and expand the judicial system to provide justice and spread security and social stability among the citizens.

The Ministry of Justice was established in 1390 (1970) to undertake the responsibility of providing various types of judicial services and issuing of legal deeds that govern the various transactions such as contracts, registrations and mortgages ... etc.

Over the successive development plans, the Ministry of Justice successfully improved and enhanced its services and activities in a substantial manner. This has been accomplished through optimal utilization and development of manpower by continuous training, improved utilization of available facilities, completion of under-construction facilities, construction of new buildings and opening of new general and specialized courts and public notaries.

The number of judicial complexes and public notaries established by the Ministry of Justice up to 1425/26 (2005) reached 54 buildings in line with the most advanced structural designs that satisfy the requirements of modern administration offices and meet the requirements of judicial facilities.

Demand for judicial services increased substantially due to the increase of population, transactions and activities as well as expansion of the economic base and the role of the private sector and individuals. The number of cases heard by courts reached 752,675 in 1425/26 (2005) compared to 182,922 cases in 1395 (1975), an increase of more than four-folds. The number of cases treated by the courts of cassation reached 37,538 in 1425/26 (2005) compared to 8154 in 1400 (1980), or an increase of more than four-folds. On the other hand, the number of deeds issued by public notaries increased from 304,015 in 1398 (1978) to 1,655,967 in 1425/26 (2005), or an increase of more than five-folds.

In the first year of the Eighth Plan, the Ministry of Justice has 3 courts of cassation, 263 general and specialized courts, 5 follow-up units, 126 public notaries and 11 branches in various regions of the Kingdom.

### **6.6.2 Hajj Services**

The government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques pays utmost priority in providing best services and facilities to pilgrims for Hajj and Umrah performers. Concrete achievements have been realized to enable them perform their holy rites in an easy

manner.

Expansion of the Holy Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah represents the most eminent Islamic achievement over the past three decades. Total area of the Holy Mosque in Makkah increased to more than 366,000 square meters accommodating more than 800,000 people at prayers, and about one million people at prayers during peak seasons. The total area of the Prophet's Mosque increased to about 400.3 thousand square meters. It is now capable of accommodating more than 700,000 people at prayers in ordinary times and about one million people at prayers during peak seasons.

Within the program of promoting services provided to pilgrims, the government replaced the ordinary tents with new fire-proof tents in Mina. The remarkable expansion of facilities in the holy places and the services provided to pilgrims contributed in accommodating the increasing number of pilgrims and Umrah performers and enabling them to perform their holy rites in an easy manner.

The number of pilgrims from abroad increased from 431,000 in 1390 (1970) to about 1.6 million in 1426 (2005), at an average annual growth rate of 3.6%

over the period 1390-1426 (1970-2005).

### **6.6.3 Culture and Information**

The Ministry of culture and Information is the government agency in charge of information media including electronic and print media, and represents the civilizational facet of the intellectual and cultural development. The Ministry undertakes its mandate within the scope of maintaining Islamic values.

The Ministry of Culture and Information provides citizens with information and news through TV and radio transmission network, printing, publishing and distributing books and other materials. It also prepares and presents information campaigns, in collaboration with other government agencies, in various fields, such as health awareness, illiteracy control, fire hazards, traffic awareness etc.

Saudi Radio service started broadcasting from Jeddah station in 1368 (1948) while TV transmission services started from Jeddah and Riyadh stations in 1385 (1965). At present, radio broadcasting service reaches all continents through directed programs transmitted in 12 languages. In 1425/26 (2005), the number of radio

broadcasting stations reached 26, transmitting their programs through five main broadcasting services as follows:

- The Holy Quran Service
- Islamic Call Service
- Directed Programs Service
- General Programs Service
- Second Program Service

In addition, there are 48 FM stations, 132 TV transmission centers. Saudi TV transmission has become widely accessible all over the world through the satellites. In 1403 (1983) Saudi TV, Channel 2 was inaugurated to transmit its programs in English. The number of television centers reached 70 In 1424/25 (2004) third sports channel started, which will transmit programs from the earth only. Moreover, Al Akhbaria Channel has been added to the said TV stations. While there are 6 main production centers. The Ministry of Culture and Information has 38 publication offices, 8 internal information offices and 7 foreign information offices of which 3 are located abroad. Saudi Press Agency has 21 local and foreign offices as well as 17 correspondents in many capital cities of the world. The directed programs are broadcast in 12 languages. The Saudi Press Agency covers the events on round-the clock basis.

#### **6.6.4 Youth Welfare**

The General Presidency of Youth Welfare (GPYW) was established in 1394 (1974) as the government agency in charge of sports, social and cultural activities. It grants licenses and provide subsidies to sports and literary clubs and specialized private institutions, and is responsible for the construction of facilities for usage by the clubs and the public, and to enhance the performance level of clubs in various fields of sports, so that they can compete at the global level. The GPYW provides all types of sports facilities such as sports centers, pavilions, youth camps, public fields, and fully equipped club premises. It also organizes competitions in the fields of literature, arts and poetry, and grants the state award in literature.

In the field of domestic sports, the number of sports clubs increased from 53 in 1395 (1975) to 153 clubs in 1425/26 (2005) with total membership of over 186 thousand. The number of sports federations increased to 24. GPYW has 14 main and 9 branch youth offices throughout the Kingdom.

Subsidies provided to sports clubs over the period 1394-1425/26 (1974-2005) reached SR 5.8 billion.

In the literary and cultural fields, the

number of literary clubs reached 13 with more than 3000 members. The Saudi Culture and Arts Society has 12 branches in addition to its headquarters in Riyadh. The Stamps Collection Society comprises of three branches, besides its headquarters in Makkah, with a total membership of about 4200.

In the social domain, the Saudi Youth Hostels Society supervises 20 youth hostels with around 75 thousand members. Furthermore, two permanent youth camps were established in Taif and Hail.

Achievements in the field of sport facilities construction till the end of 1425/26 (2005) included 25 club premises, 17 sports centers, 6 closed pavilions and swimming pools, 5 public playing fields, 20 youth hostels and 2 permanent youth camps, one institute for training and preparation of leaders, Prince Faisal Sports Medicine Hospital, Saudi Olympic Committee premises, the headquarters building of the General Presidency of Youth Welfare, two coastal centers, an international stadium in Riyadh with a capacity of 80,000 spectators, three branch office buildings for GPYW located in Jeddah, Dammam and Riyadh, in addition to King Fahd Cultural Center.

These projects reflect the great attention devoted by the government to the youth welfare sector through provision of financial allocations as well as offering of services necessary for the youth within the context of sports, cultural and social activities.

