Journey Towards International Benchmarking:
A Story about Private Schools in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Rabaa AlSumaiti- Knowledge & Human Development Authority
Dubai- United Arab Emirates
Education in the UAE

- Ministry of Education (MoE): oversees schools in the UAE
- Knowledge & Human Development Authority (KHDA): oversees private schools in Dubai
- Abu Dhabi Educational Council (ADEC): oversees all schools in Abu Dhabi
## Education in the UAE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of schools across the country</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAE *</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Excluding Dubai and Abu Dhabi
## Education in the UAE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of students</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAE *</td>
<td>144,093 (42%)</td>
<td>195,629 (58%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abu Dhabi</td>
<td>125,852 (39%)</td>
<td>200,131 (61%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubai</td>
<td>28,277 (11.2 %)</td>
<td>225,099 (88.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Excluding Dubai and Abu Dhabi
Private School Curricula in Dubai *

1. UK
2. Indian
3. US
4. National curriculum- UAE Ministry of Education (MoE)
5. IB
6. Pakistani
7. Philippines
8. French
9. Iranian
10. Institute of Applied Technology (UAE)
11. German
12. Reggio Emilia (KG)
13. Russian
14. Japanese
15. International Curriculum for Languages and Creative Arts (KG)

* Types of curricula listed in this slide based on curricula with largest number of schools
How do we monitor the quality of private schools in Dubai?

- Internal Benchmarking
- International Benchmarking

**School Inspections**

**International Assessments**
Participation in TIMSS and PIRLS

TIMSS 2007
- Dubai: benchmarking participant

TIMSS/PIRLS 2011
- UAE
- Dubai: benchmarking participant
- Abu Dhabi: benchmarking participant
How did we use TIMSS/ PIRLS in working with private schools in Dubai?
1. Testing all schools
Dubai’s Sample in TIMSS and PIRLS 2011

Grade 4

- Total: 139 schools

Grade 8

- Total: 130 schools

Legend:
- Public- MoE
- Private-MoE
- UK
- US
- Indian
- IB
- Pakistani
- Philippine
2. Analysing results by school curriculum type
Dubai’s Performance in TIMSS and PIRLS 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 4</th>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Reading (PIRLS 2011)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>460</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Achievement at Grade 4- Mathematics and Sciences (TIMSS 2011)

Dubai’s average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Achievement at Grade 8 - Mathematics and Science (TIMSS 2011)

Dubai’s average

Mathematics 478
Science 485
PIRLS 2011

Dubai’s PIRLS average

PIRLS Scale Average

548
534
494
496
452
372
404
338

IB
UK
Indian
Philippine
US
Public - MOE
Private - MOE
Pakistani
TIMSS Trends (2007-2011) by School Curricula-Grade 4

Mathematics

Science
TIMSS Trends (2007-2011) by School Curricula-Grade 8

**Mathematics**

- Pakistani
- US
- Public MoE
- Indian
- UK

**Science**

- Pakistani
- Private US
- Public MOE
- Private UK
3. Analysing the impact of literacy on student achievement
TIMSS/ PIRLS 2011

63% of our students who were tested in English, do not speak English at home.
The impact of reading

Correlating reading results with achievement in mathematics and sciences
(TIMSS/PIRLS 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading &amp; Mathematics</th>
<th>1 point increase in reading is associated with 0.7 increase in Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading &amp; Science</td>
<td>1 point increase in reading is associated with 0.8 increase in Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The impact of reading

The difference between high performing schools and low preforming schools..
The impact of reading

When controlling for reading.

- Mathematics
  - High
  - Low
  - Less than 20 points

- Sciences
  - High
  - Low
  - Less than 15 points
4. Correlating TIMSS/PIRLS 2011 with inspection’s results
TIMSS/PIRLS 2011 and inspection’s ratings

Outstanding
Good
Acceptable
Unsatisfactory

Correlating 2011 school inspection ratings

TIMSS/PIRLS 2011 school achievement results
Correlating TIMSS/PIRLS 2011 with inspection’s results

Grade 4 Mathematics – TIMSS 2011 & Inspection Ratings

Grade 4 Science – TIMSS 2011 & Inspection Ratings

Grade 8 Mathematics – TIMSS 2011 & Inspection Ratings

Grade 8 Science – TIMSS 2011 & Inspection Ratings
Correlating TIMSS/PIRLS 2011 with inspection’s results

Reading Grade4- PIRLS 2011 scores & Inspection Ratings

- Outstanding: 579
- Good: 510
- Acceptable: 456
- Unsatisfactory: 412
5. Empowering schools

a) Sharing results and best practice

b) TIMSS/PIRLS 2011 Individual School report

c) Using school inspections to promote the use of international assessments’ data
a) Sharing results and best practice

**What Works’ events:**

- Sharing results and key findings from TIMSS/ PIRLS 2011
- High performing schools sharing best practices
b) TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 Individual School Reports

**Student achievement:**
- All participating schools in Dubai
- Schools offering the same curricula
- Achievements against TIMSS/PIRLS benchmarks
- Gender differentials
- Achievements in Content and Cognitive Domains/ Reading Purposes and Processes

*Reports were presented in: TIMSS/PIRLS 2011 School workshops*
c) Using school inspections to promote the use of international assessments’ data

School Inspections

School leaders’ capacities in using evidence-based data in planning their self-evaluation plans

Schools using data from TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 reports in identifying areas of strengths and weaknesses, and as evidence-based data in their self-evaluation plans.
Thank you!

www.khda.gov.ae

rabaa.alsumaiti@khda.gov.ae