

**Programme Name: The Mother Child Home Education Programme (MOCEP)
Implemented by: MOCEP, Bahrain**



Basic Facts:

Country: Bahrain

Starting year: 2000

Outreach: approximately 200 per year

Target Population: Poor families whose children are not attending pre-school

Language of instruction: Arabic

Operating in: 6 locations in Bahrain and in Saudi Arabia

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Brief Description

The Mother Child Home Education Programme (MOCEP) is a high quality, researched-based intervention programme that effectively empowers mothers with child-rearing skills and teaches them how to give a complete early years' home education pre-primary course to their children in their homes.

Rationale

In Bahrain, pre-school attendance is still, by and large, seen as a luxury, unaffordable for many families. An experimental study conducted between 1989 and 1994 on the effects of pre-school on child development in Bahrain showed that children at home (not attending pre-school) accounted for approximately 70% of the under six population (J. Hadeed & K.Sylva 1994a, 1994b).

Objective

Since 1999, MOCEP works to address the lack of pre-school provision available in Bahrain and the lack of awareness and knowledge of the mothers in relation to child-rearing. The programme aims at empowering entire families living in poverty, especially women, through education and teaching them child-rearing skills. MOCEP provides training to mothers so that they may improve their reading skills and teach their own children in their homes pre-readiness skills before they enter primary school. It also provides education to mothers in the areas of child-rearing and development.

Conceptual Model and Methodology

MOCEP is an educational empowerment programme for mothers and pre-school children living in poverty. The Home Visiting Scheme is the single most powerful tool of MOCEP's intervention. Home visiting sessions are the cornerstones which build close long-term cooperation and support for learning. Every year, several regional areas throughout the Kingdom of Bahrain are selected for the programme implementation. Mothers are transported to meet in the local social centres or at local charity sites for the weekly meetings and training sessions. The social centres are provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Each year, the programme recruits a minimum of 100 families (mother/child dyads) for programme participation. Most of the families selected are economically deprived (persistently poor) and the children are not attending pre-school. The children are usually around 5 years old or at the year before entering primary school.

All programme participants (mothers) are provided with instruction, training, materials, transportation and support throughout the programme, free of charge. Each family is assigned to a professional teacher who assists the child and teaches the mothers on a weekly basis both at meetings and at home. The skilled and trained Discussion Leaders sustain strong supportive relationships with all mothers and children in their programme.

Innovative features

The programme is designed to help mothers who are not completely literate by having them use and practice their skills in teaching their own children. The daily activities the mothers use in the programme are structured and provide real feedback because they are teaching their own children. Mothers gain writing practice when doing the activities with their children and by reading the weekly story books with their children.

MOCEP Bahrain has successfully adapted the original programme from Turkey (ACEV) to meet the indigenous cultural factors, especially the language, religion and social and familial norms of Bahrain.