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Celebrating the Emirati Woman's Day & the 50th Anniversary **In Numbers: UAE Women are Key Partner for Designing our Future**

Abu Dhabi (28 August 2021)

Thanks to the support of our leadership and the efforts of the Nation's Mother, Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Abu Dhabi women have effectively contributed to the country's development journey over the last 50 years. During this period, the UAE government empowered women to play an integral role in the development, driving the prosperity forward to the next 50 years. As we mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the UAE and in acknowledgement of the Emirati Women's Day 2021, the Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi (SCAD) gives numbers that shed some light on Abu Dhabi women's role over the last 50 years.

H.E. Maryam Eid Al Mheiri, Director-General of Abu Dhabi Government Media Office, said: "I feel proud when numbers reflect the inspiring reality of the Emirati woman today, because our leadership gave her the attention and support from day one to be the model of empowerment, contribution and presence for other women in the region and the world."

She said: "In the Emirati Women's Day, I extend thanks and appreciation to our leaders and to the Mother of the Nation, Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak who spared no efforts to secure a high standing for the Emirati woman by empowering her with education and knowledge, promoting her position as a partner in all fields along with her mission to raise the generations and to build the Emirati families."

H.E. Maryam Eid Al Mheiri said: "These important statistics reflect the progress of the Emirati woman's reality over years in the domains of education, health, labour market, and investments. This makes us more optimistic about the key role women can play during the next 50 years and about the important opportunities they would have to do more achievements."

More female students

The UAE woman shines in the field of education where she is a world-class example of success. The UAE leadership invested great deal of efforts to support human resources as a key factor of competitiveness and vital



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component of the future economy. From this point, the leadership shows special attention for women and their rights to access high-quality education services. Subsequently, Abu Dhabi women hit gigantic achievements in the field of education. The total number of female students increased from 131 students in 1963/1964 to 68,249 students in 2019/2020 where the total number of UAE female students hit 107.8 percent compared to the male students in the government schools. Since 1990s, female students started to outnumber male students.

Higher education success

The Abu Dhabi women continued to break the record in the higher-education as their number jumped from 25,400 in 2015 to 29,026 female students in 2020.

A student and a teacher

Women prefer education sector for their career life in general, no matter it was in a public or a private sector institution. Today, the female teachers make up 91.7% of total number of Emirati teachers in the country. In the 2019-2020, the total number of female Emirati teachers hit 3,873 in government schools (91.6%) compared to 36 teachers in private schools.

Healthiness & happiness

Due to the progress and development in the healthcare sector, Abu Dhabi female citizens showed increasing interest in the field. This is why she is making up 66% of the total number of UAE physicians, 74% of the total number of dentists and 94% of pharmacists. According to statistics in this field, Abu Dhabi has about 965 female doctors including 146 physicians, 100 pharmacists, and 661 others who are working in different sub-specialties. The numbers stand as a proof that special efforts have been made to support education throughout the last couple of decades.

Fields of work

As she has good healthcare and high-quality education services, the Emirati women managed to stand shoulder to shoulder with men in every aspect of life. Their share in the labour market in Abu Dhabi has gradually increased from 2.2% in 1975 to 7.5% in 1995 and 37.2% in 2020.

Women in Abu Dhabi managed to break through difficult fields of work where they were underpenetrated, leaping to a huge success in a record time.

Today, she gives an example and presents a model for others in the region after doubling her progress in building our country in many domains working



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as legislators, executive directors, and CEOs increasing from 5.9% in 2005 to 12.4% in 2020 in Abu Dhabi.

The female citizen participation in public administration, defence and social security activities also increased from 38.8% in 2005 to 44% in 2020. They showed interest in financial and insurance domains where their presence increased from 5% in 2005 to 7.5% in 2020. At the same time, the Emirati woman's presence becomes noticeable in other man-dominated sectors such as petroleum, quarrying, cargo transport and storage.

The government sector was the first and main attractor for Abu Dhabi woman to start a career. Later, she moved towards other sectors with steady and confident steps. In 2005, the government sector embraced 86.5% of the total working female citizens. This percentage has gradually decreased to 77.7% in 2020. On the other side, women in Abu Dhabi showed increasing interest in the private and mixed sectors which attract up to 5% and 16.4% respectively of working female citizens.

Mobdea licence

Abu Dhabi business sector empowers women to be part of the investment and economic industry. Some governmental and semi-governmental entities played an important role in optimising the investment climate to embrace more UAE women with financial capabilities and special qualifications. In 2020, Abu Dhabi issued around 22,465 business licences for Emirati women working in the private sector as owners, partners, and service agents. In the same context, the UAE female citizens got around 750 Mobdea licences to run businesses from their homes. The retail trade Mobdea licences, excluding the auto and monocycle market, surged recently due to increasing interest from the UAE women side to this domain. So, the total number of licences increased from 778 in 2016 to 3,339 licences in 2020. Similarly, the total number of food and beverage business licences issued for female entrepreneurs jumped from 246 to 1,576 licences. During the same period, the women activity in the wholesale trade, excluding the auto and monocycle market, increased from 309 to 1,223 licences.

Agriculture

The Abu Dhabi woman, empowered by the government policies, has successfully run her family affairs by being more productive. To do so and while she used to take care of the house while her husband was on pearl diving voyages, she worked in the field of agricultural crops and livestock production.



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Agriculture is still a key source of food security and a drive for related economic activities. Abu Dhabi women own 17.1% of the total number of plant holdings (farms) in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and 20.6% of the total holdings of livestock (farms) in the emirate, where the number of animals in those farms reached about 789,000 heads in 2020.

The lure of Abu Dhabi city

Statistical indicators reflect the reality of Abu Dhabi city which is now attracting about 54.4% of the Emirate female citizens according to a 2020 survey. The percentage is 41.4% in the Al Ain region, and about 4.1% in Al Dhafrah. The rise of women-related indicators clearly shows that Emirati women, in general and the Abu Dhabi women in particular, have become an essential part of development progress in our country. Today, the UAE is a success example for other women in the Arab region. To maintain this status, Abu Dhabi is making sure the UAE women would step forward as pioneering examples in building their country in the next fifty years.

A Year of Shiny Success

H.E. Ahmed Mahmoud Fikri
The Director General – SCAD

“As we are living a very bright festive year, it is time to celebrate the Emirati Women's Day, whose sun is shining over all of us. We are marking the 50th anniversary of founding the UAE and acknowledging 50 years of giving when the Emirati women resembled ambitions and astonishing achievements over decades to stand as a true supporter to her nations under all circumstance. Those who contemplate the achievements in the United Arab Emirates, would clearly see that Emirati women have become an essential part in the country's journey of development. The UAE woman became an example to be followed in the Arab region, and as a real competitor to women in the developed countries thanks to the unlimited support of our leadership, and the care and attention from the Mother of the Nation, Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (FDF) and President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood as well as her contribution to enhancing the position of Emirati women locally, regionally and globally, to lead in her pioneering role in building our country. This year's celebration is a rare opportunity to explore the extraordinary achievements made by the Emirati women over 50 years. Over the past 50



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years, the UAE leadership and governments have adopted policies, plans and programs that enhance the position of Emirati women. These policies helped women to build their capabilities, and overcome difficulties while they are participating in various aspects of life.

Due to this support, the Emirati women managed to break records in various fields at the national, regional and international levels. They have deservedly held advanced leading positions, and participated in building the nation shoulder to shoulder with men.

In the Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi (SCAD), where facts are proved in numbers, we are happy because of the progress and success the Emirati women made over the past decades. We take advantage of this celebration to highlight some key figures at the level of Abu Dhabi from the field of education.

The Abu Dhabi government has attached great importance to the female education, and as a result the number of female citizens enrolled in higher education increased from 16,619 in 2008 to 36,605 female students in 2021, with an average annual growth of 2.8%. It worth notice that the female students enrolled in the higher education represent 197% compared to male students.

The education is a key field of achievements of Emirati women over the past decades as it opened up all domains of careers for them. It is a chance for women to play a role and contribute to the process of sustainable development, and to keep pace with the rapid developments in the region and the world. Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi takes advantage of this celebration to confirm confidence that young women will seize the opportunity of the current great global transformations, and increase their interest in statistics and mathematics sciences. These fields of education are becoming the foundations of the future of big data and artificial intelligence. We believe in you and await your innovations for the fifty next year.”

New Horizons for the Coming 50 Years

H.E. Muna Saeed Al Suwaidi

Executive Director of Statistics Sector - SCAD

“The twenty-eighth of August is a close day to our hearts as it holds the memories of support and empowerment that Emirati women enjoy. It is a day when we remember our leadership efforts to boost women’s role as a key partner in the renaissance and sustainable development process of our country. Without these efforts, the UAE female citizens would not have



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managed to achieve what they have done during the past five decades. The progress that women make in any society is not doable without legislations and laws that protect them and help them overcome obstacles.

The UAE women are running ahead of time with extra ordinary achievements. Today, they gear up to play a key role in the coming fifty years, and pushing the economic, social and development drivers forward to make the UAE the best in the world. As the world is changing at an unprecedented speed, opportunities are opening up horizons for innovation, creativity and excellence. The Emirati women, as expected, are going to be a pillar to redouble efforts and work, creating new ideas and initiatives to preserve heritage, values and to maintain the diversity of our society, so that everyone, male and female, would contribute to shaping a better tomorrow and a bright future.

We at the Statistics Center - Abu Dhabi (SCAD), we are pleased to have women staff celebrating the Emirati Women's Day. This year, we are happy to have an increasing number of female workers who are joined the SCAD teams and contributing to the decision-making process. This comes as we are moving forward to catch up with the latest technologies and methodologies that enable us to anticipate the future. We, standing on the edge of the future, are carefully planning the present and the future at the same time. Due to the fact the shape of tomorrow is determined by today's actions, it is no longer unknown, but rather advanced statistical forecasting processes of which the young Emirati women can participate."



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About Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi (SCAD)

Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi (SCAD) was established in 2008 in accordance with Law No. (7), to develop and organise statistical work in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in particular and the United Arab Emirates in general. SCAD's purpose is to produce statistical information that is consistent with the Emirate's orientation towards sustainable development and strategic plans under the supervision and with full support of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Being the official statistical data collection agency in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the centre assumes the functions of preparing the statistical plans and programmes that serve the emirate's wider development programmes, conducting statistical surveys across the emirate. SCAD is also responsible for the collection, classification, storage, analysis and dissemination of official statistics and the release of the results of social, demographic, economic, environmental and cultural surveys.

The activities of the centre encompass all areas relating to social conditions in accordance with relevant international standards and ethics, such as independence, professionalism, impartiality, objectivity, confidentiality, cost effectiveness and quality of statistics.

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