



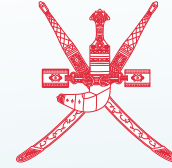
COMCEC

11th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation
Working Group:

Quality of Education in the OIC Member Countries

April 5th, 2018

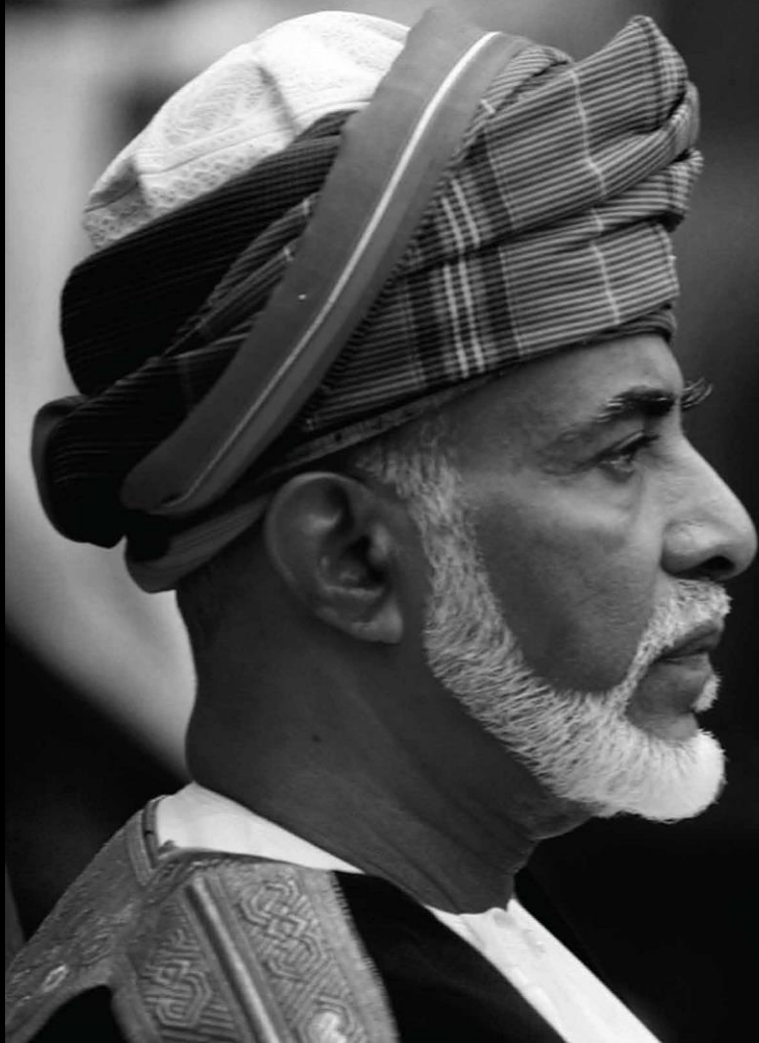
Ankara/Turkey



SULTANATE OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Development
of the School Education System
in the Sultanate of Oman 1970-2018

The Drive for Quality



“ When we first set the education process in motion, we appealed for education to take place ‘even in the shade of the trees’. We appealed for the whole population - male and female, young and old - to be given the opportunity to join the march of knowledge without discrimination, because the clear river of knowledge is one from which all should drink. ”

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said
Sultan Qaboos University

30th October 1990

Oman has witnessed rapid developments since the succession of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said in 1970. Since that point the Ministry of Education in Oman (MOE), with the full support of the Government, has succeeded in making dramatic changes in education.





Expansion of the Omani Education System



In 1970

Only **909** students
30 teachers
In **3** boys schools

By 2017

562,423 students
56,428 teachers
11,481 administrators
1,100 schools



Education Development Initiatives

Attention of the Ministry of Education in recent years has shifted away from concerns about *access* (since 97 % of basic school-age Omanis are enrolled in schooling) towards attempts to *qualitatively* improve the education system.

From **ACCESS**  towards  **SUCCESS**



Phases of School Education Development

Quantitative Phase
1970 - 1995

Providing quantitative pre-conditions in education – the buildings, teaching staff and resources etc.

Qualitative Improvements
1996 - 2010

Vision 2020 and the Omanisation policy high-lighted the need to improve the quality of education.

The focus of the Ministry was more on enhancing the quality of educational services.

Comprehensive Evaluation
2011 to date

This stage was based on the direction of HM Sultan Qaboos Bin Said

The focus is on building a solid Omani education system and paving the road toward

Excellence in Education.



National & International Educational Evaluation Studies

Between 1993 and 2001, Oman participated in four UNESCO/UNICEF-sponsored **Monitoring Learning Achievement (MLA) studies**, one each for

- grade 4 (1994)
- grade 6 (1998)
- grade 9 (1999) and
- grade 10 (2001).

The findings indicated, in general, that student learning achievement in Oman did not meet expected levels across all grades and subjects, particular in grade 6 mathematics.



National & International Educational Evaluation Studies

continued

— **Candecom Study** on the evaluation of Cycle 1 (grades 1-4).

The study concluded that students in grade 4 were one year behind international standards.

— The Ministry of Education carried out **Sample-based National Assessments** of grades 4, 7 and 10.

The assessments enabled the Ministry to develop necessary experience in item writing and in conducting large-scale surveys.



National & International Educational Evaluation Studies

continued

TIMSS

Oman participated in TIMSS studies in

- 2007, 2011 and 2015.

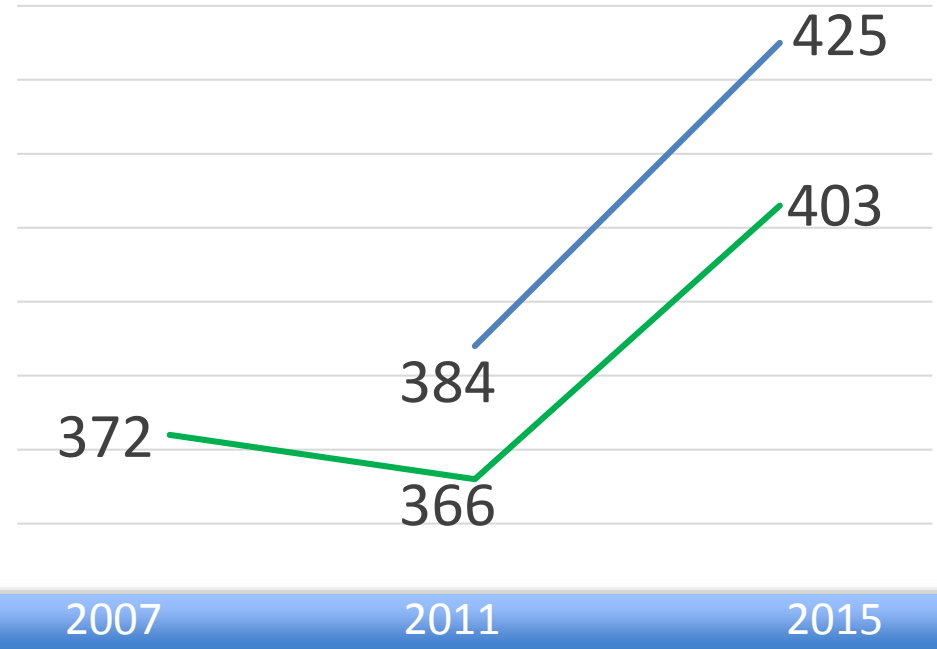
PIRLS

Oman participated in PIRLS studies in

- 2015.



Mathematics Average Score

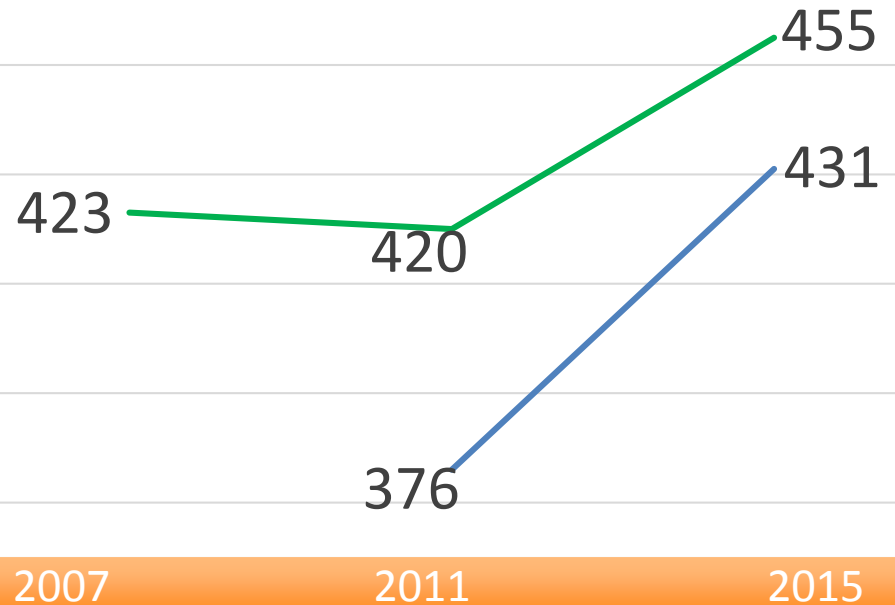


Results:
TIMSS studies
Maths

- Maths Grade 4
- Maths Grade 8



Science Average Score



Results: TIMSS studies Science

- Science Grade 4
- Science Grade 8

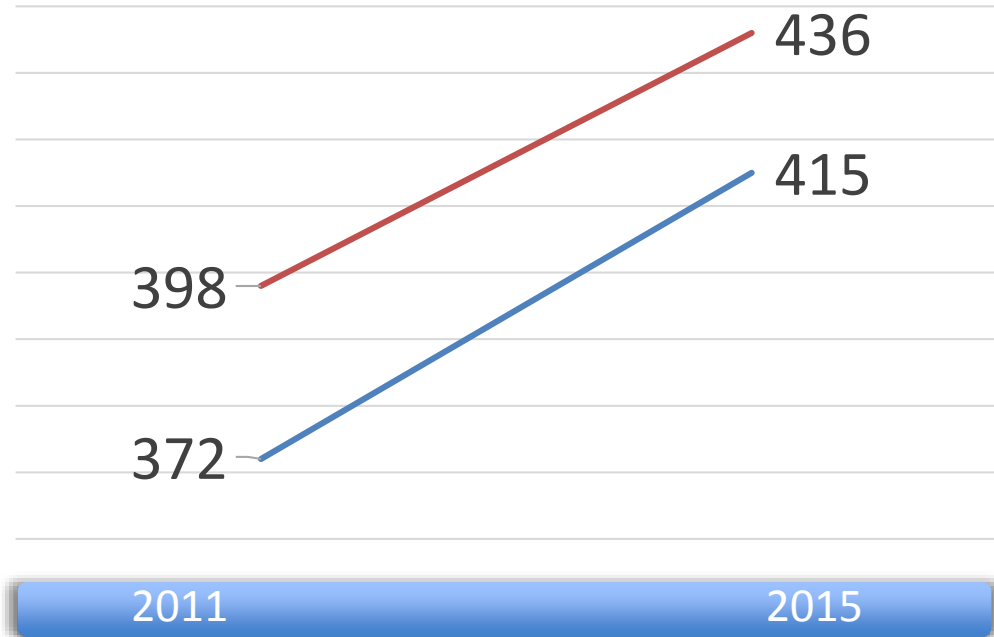


Mathematics Achievement by Gender

Results: TIMSS studies Mathematics Grade 4

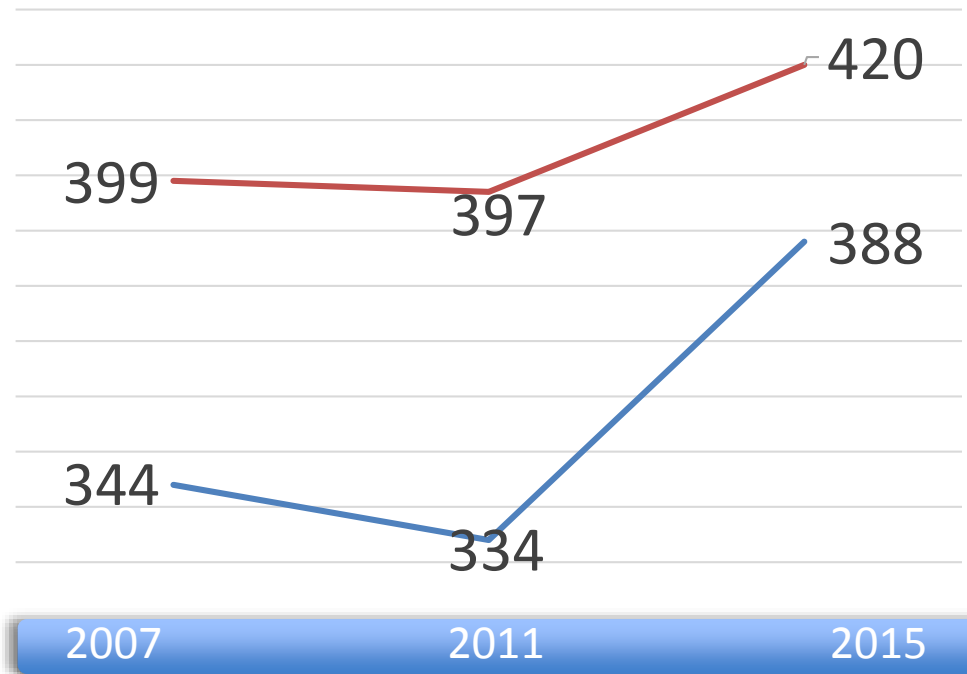
● Girls

● Boys





Mathematics Achievement by Gender



Results:
TIMSS studies
Mathematics
Grade 8

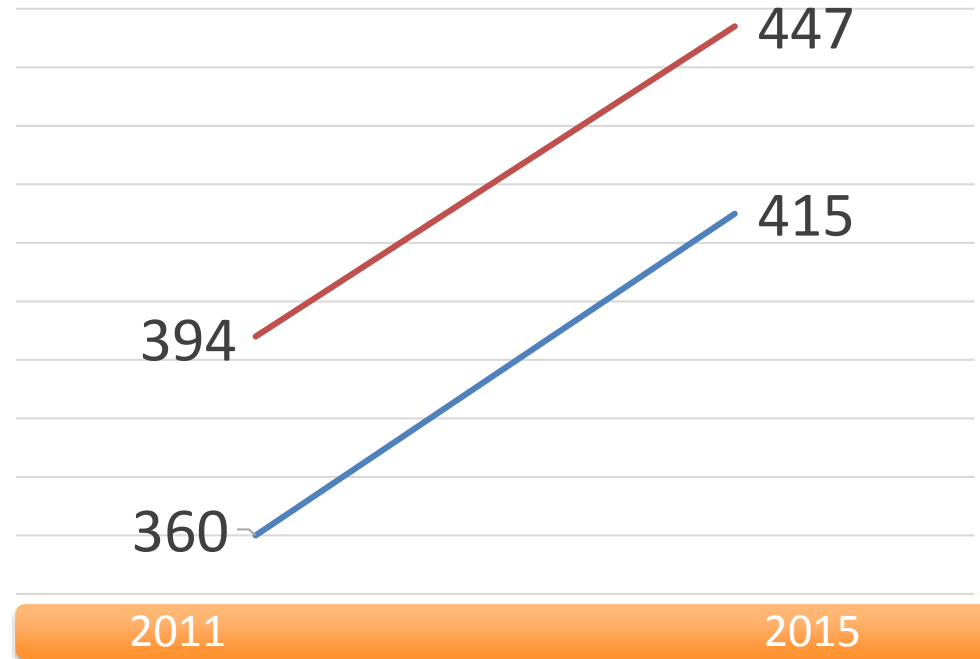
- Girls
- Boys



Science Achievement by Gender

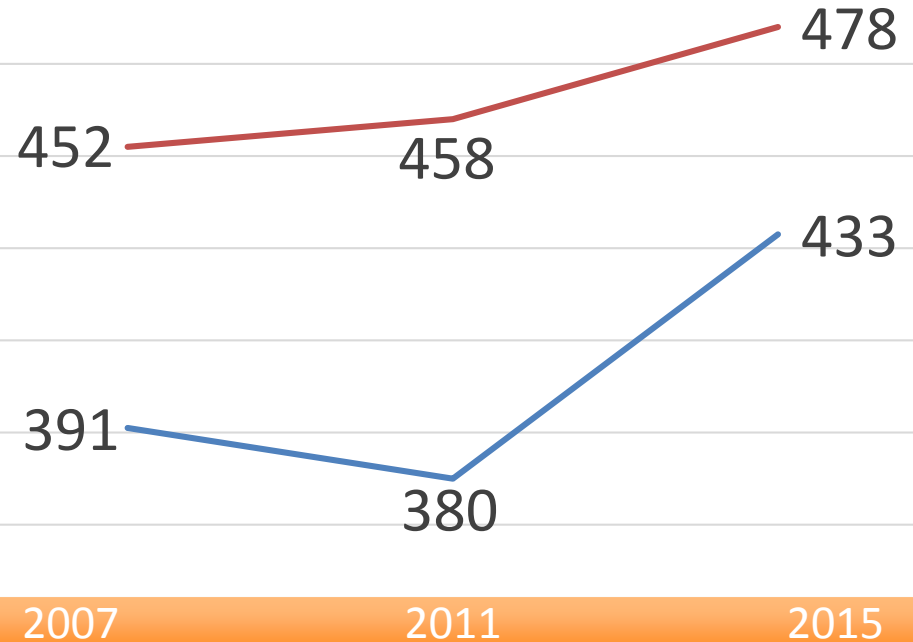
Results: TIMSS studies Science Grade 4

- Girls
- Boys





Science Achievement by Gender



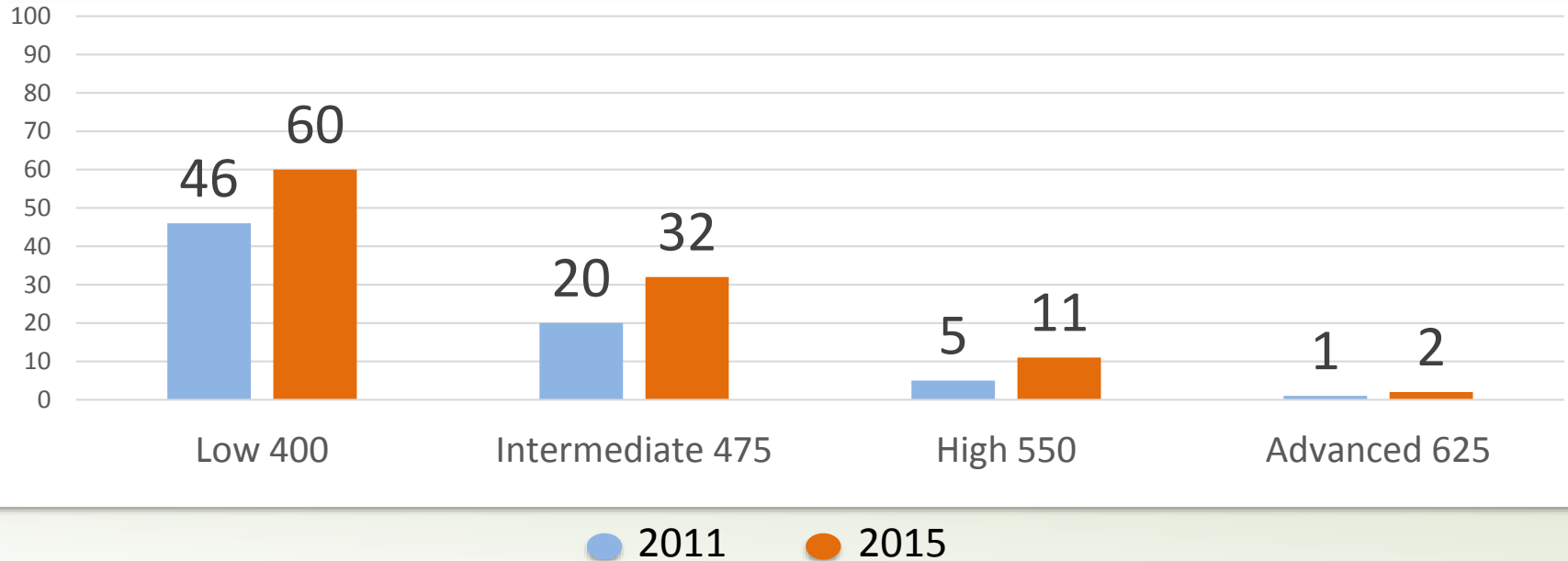
Results:
TIMSS studies
Science Grade 8

- Girls
- Boys



Results: **TIMSS** studies
Mathematics Grade 4

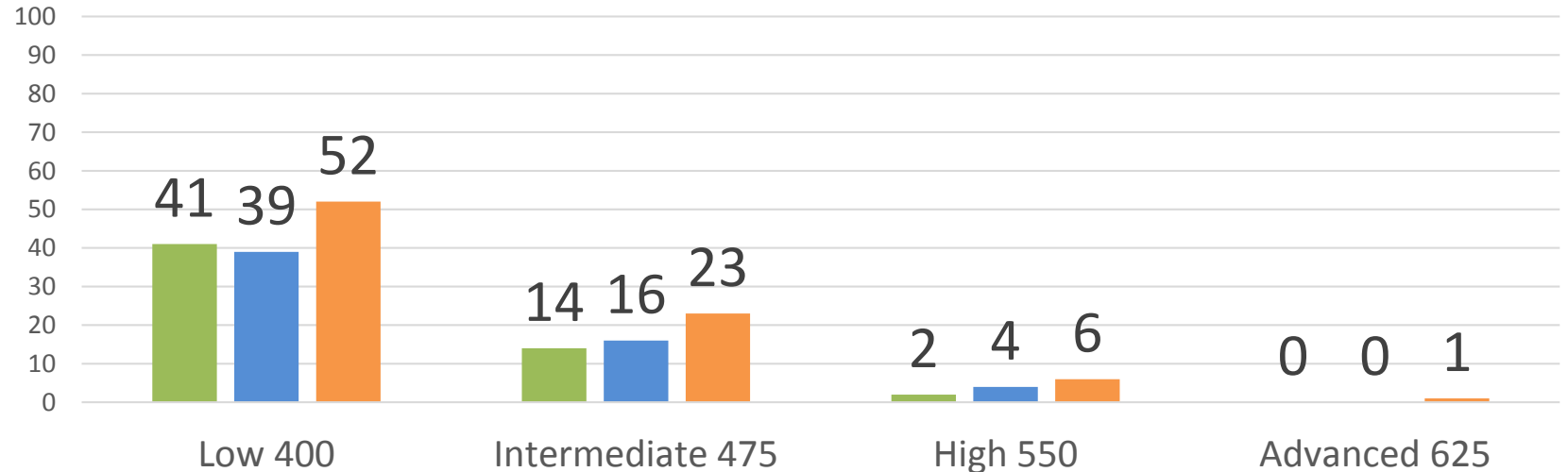
Mathematics G4 - Percentage of Students Achieving Benchmarks





Results: **TIMSS** studies
Mathematics Grade 8

Mathematics G8 - Percentage of Students Achieving Benchmarks

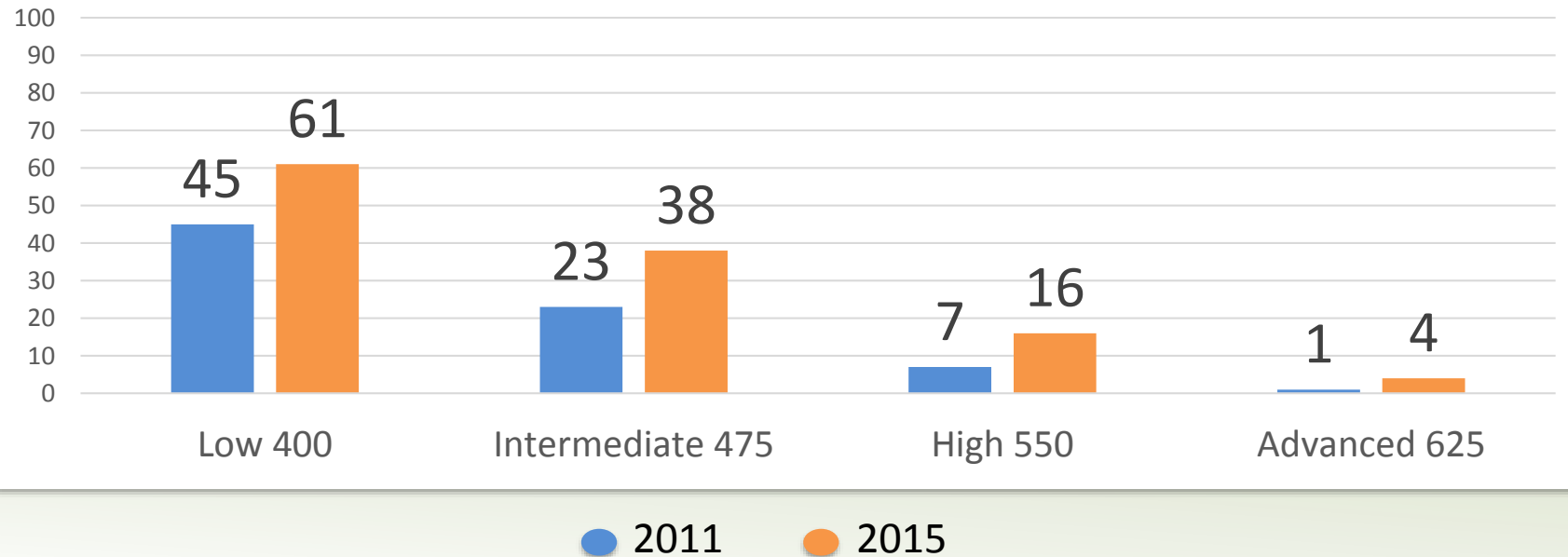


● 2007 ● 2011 ● 2015



Results: **TIMSS** studies
Science Grade 4

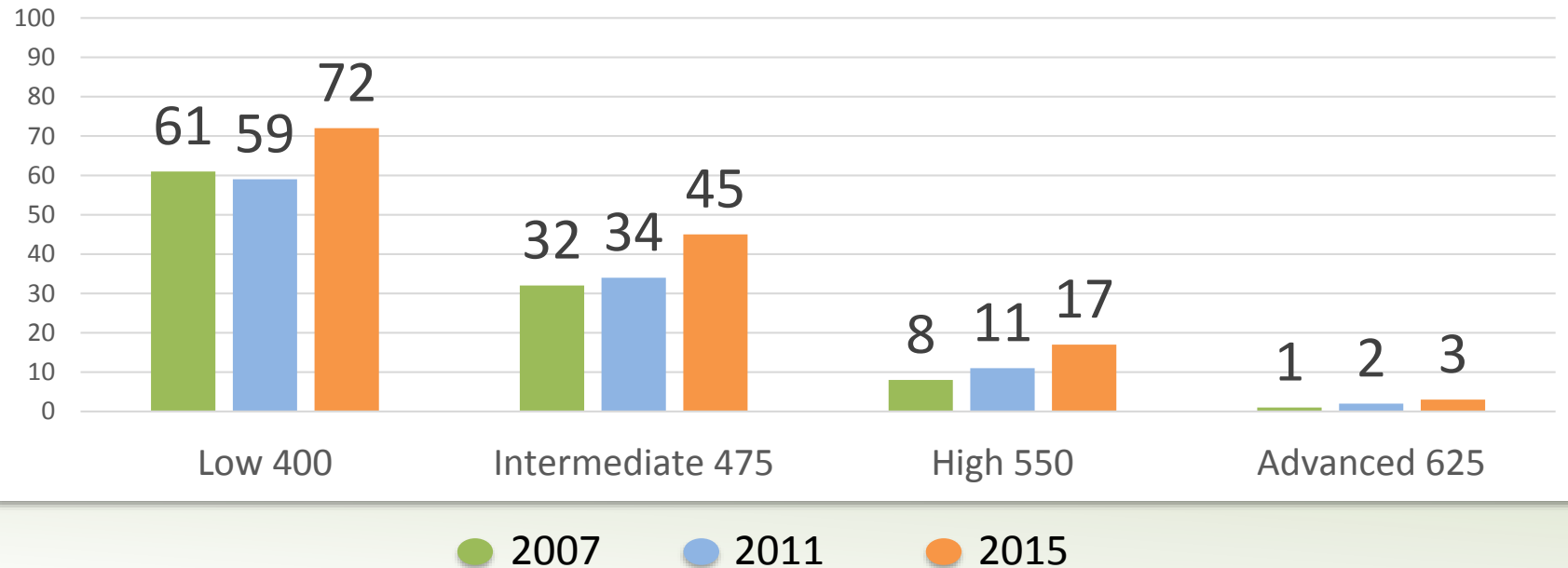
Science G4 - Percentage of Students Achieving Benchmarks





Results: **TIMSS** studies
Science Grade 8

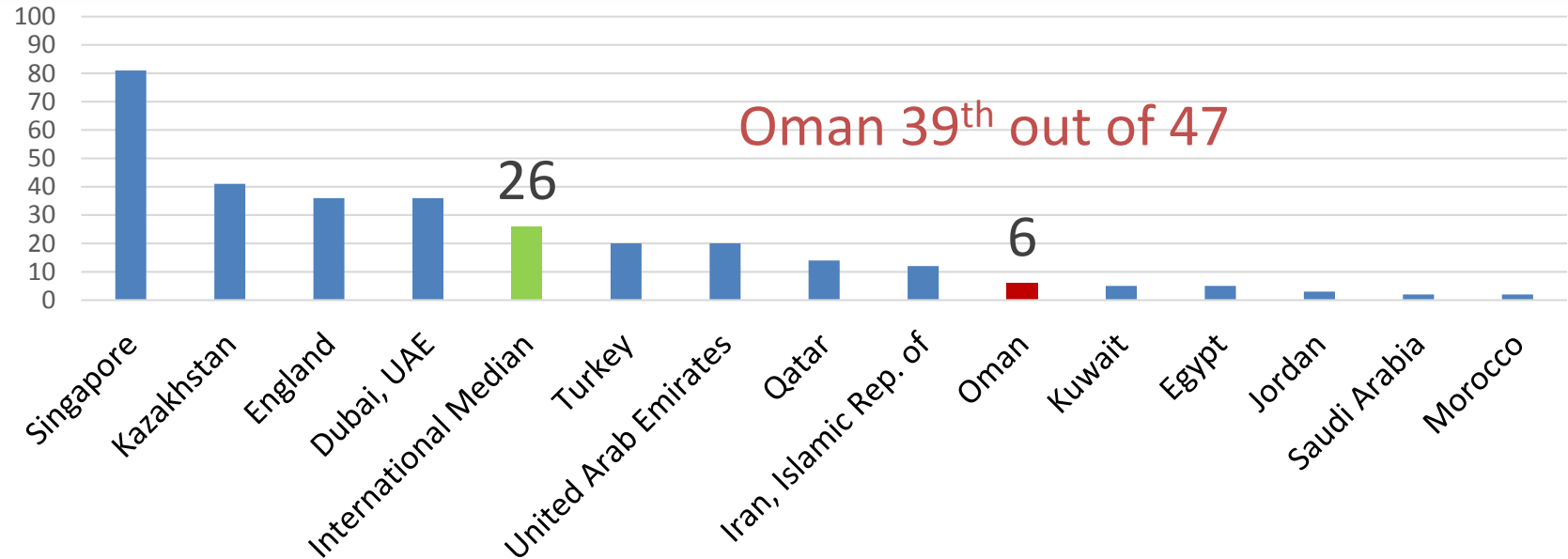
Science G8 - Percentage of Students Achieving Benchmarks





Results: **TIMSS** studies
Mathematics Grade 8

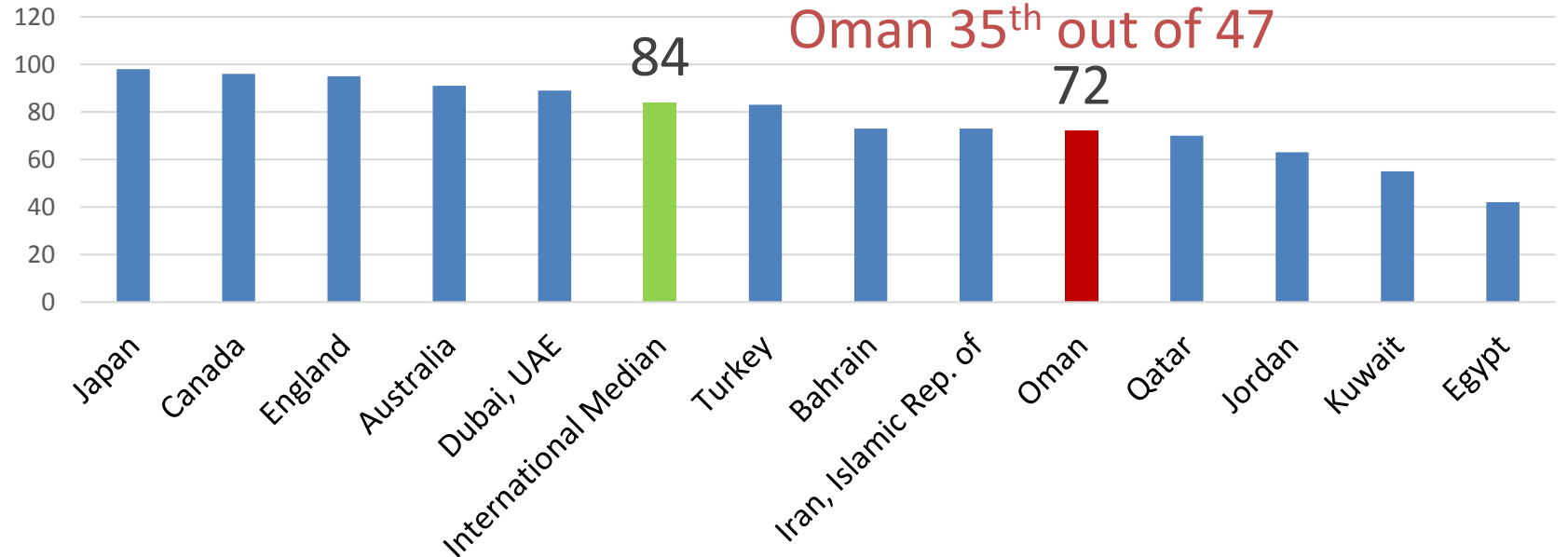
Mathematics G8 - High Benchmark





Results: **TIMSS** studies
Science Grade 8

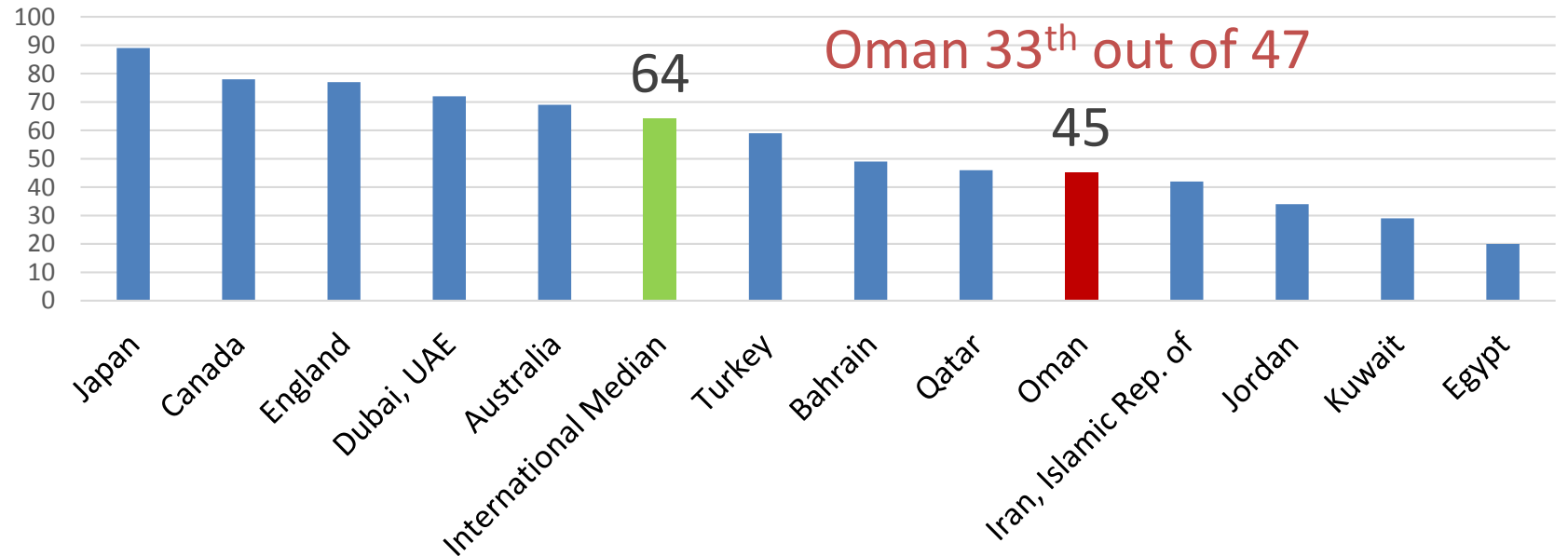
Science G8 - Low Benchmark





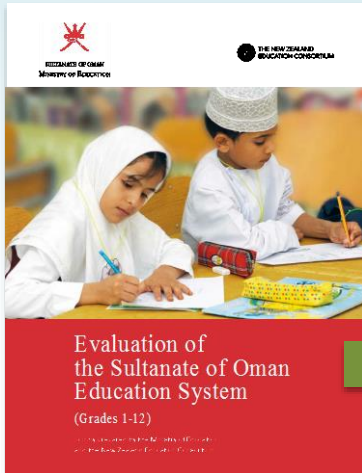
Results: **TIMSS** studies
Science Grade 8

Science G8 - Intermediate Benchmark





System Evaluation Studies



Two Major Studies were conducted:

The World Bank conducted a comprehensive evaluation study of the Sultanate school education system and in 2012 it published its findings in a report entitled

Education in Oman: The Drive for Quality.

This was followed by another comprehensive evaluation carried out by the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with a New Zealand Consortium, and the findings were published in the report

Evaluation of the Sultanate of Oman Education System (Grades 1-12).



Transformational Reforms

Student

- National Career Guidance Centre
- Project to develop Curriculum and Performance Standards

Teacher

- The Specialised Centre for the Professional Training of Teachers
- Project to develop a National Framework for Professional Standards for Teachers, Principals and Supervisors

School

- Educational Indicators Project
- School Evaluation Centre Project
- Private School Classification Project

System

- Omani Centre for Educational Assessment and Examinations Project
- Data Management
- Qualification Framework

المركز التخصصي
للتدريب المهني للمعلمين

The Specialised Centre for Professional Training of Teachers



SULTANATE OF OMAN
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Specialised Centre for Professional Training of Teachers



Principles of the Centre



- **Comprehensive:** a high proportion of teachers.
- **Sustained:** two-year programmes to embed knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- **Integrated:** integrated methods in training (face-to-face training; online learning; and workplace training).
- **Coherent:** developed using international best practice and research and to include all Ministry priorities and initiatives.
- **Accredited:** by a qualification from an internationally recognised university or authority.
- **Supported:** through on-going contact, monitoring and evaluation by trainers.

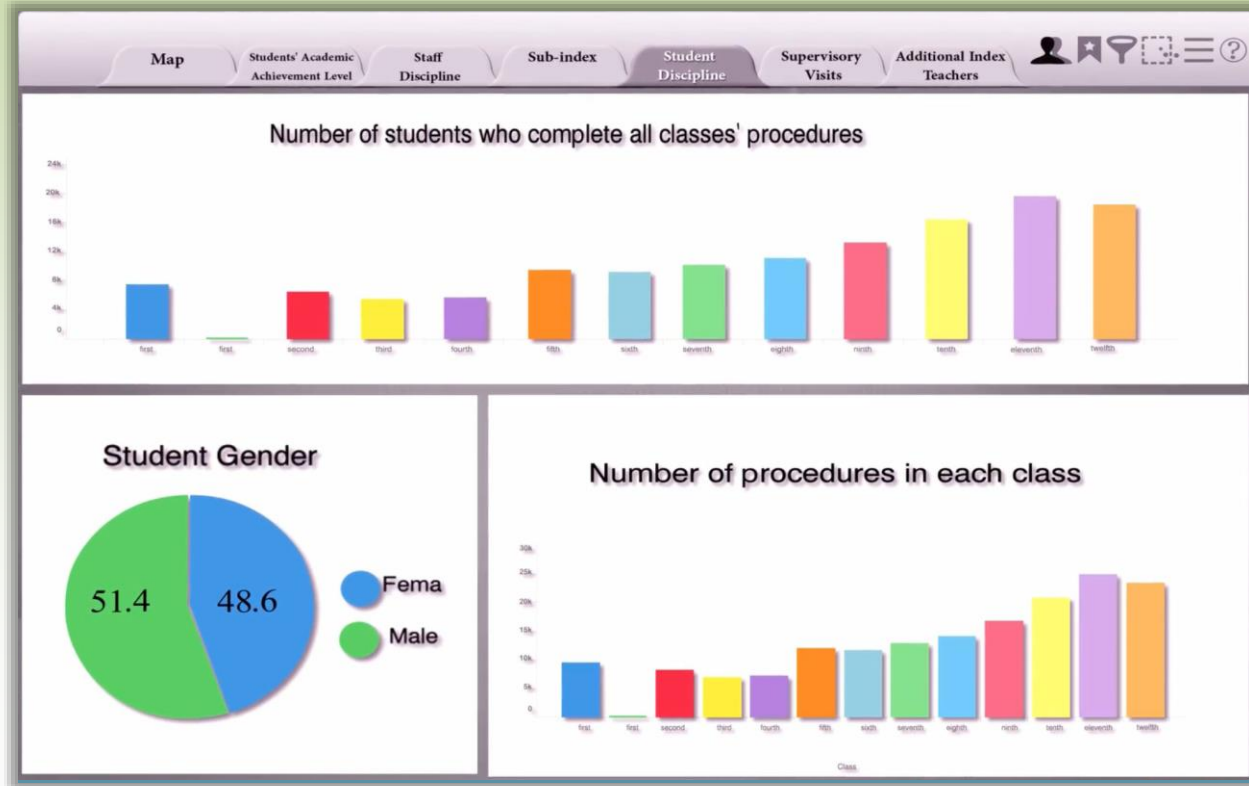


Important Implemented Programmes

- School Leadership Programme
- Expert Supervisors Programme
- Centre Associates Programme
- Arabic Language Experts Programme
- English Language Experts Programme
- Mathematics Experts Programme
- Science Experts Programme
- Field Two (Mathematics and Science) Experts Programme
- New Omani Teacher Programme



Data Management





Performance Indicators System

(Educational Indicators)



This is a system concerned with performance levels in education. It is based on the central database derived from the Oman Educational Portal, which is a source of rich data including information, indicators and statistics.

Aims

- Enable the MOE to evaluate its performance.
- Evaluate the impact of the changes introduced to the educational system.
- Provide feedback on all key aspects of academic achievement.
- Determine the positive and negative parts within the system and to address aspects in need of improvement.
- Help decision-makers at national, regional and academic levels to determine and monitor the Key Performance Indicators through data appropriate to development decision-making.

School Evaluation Centre Project





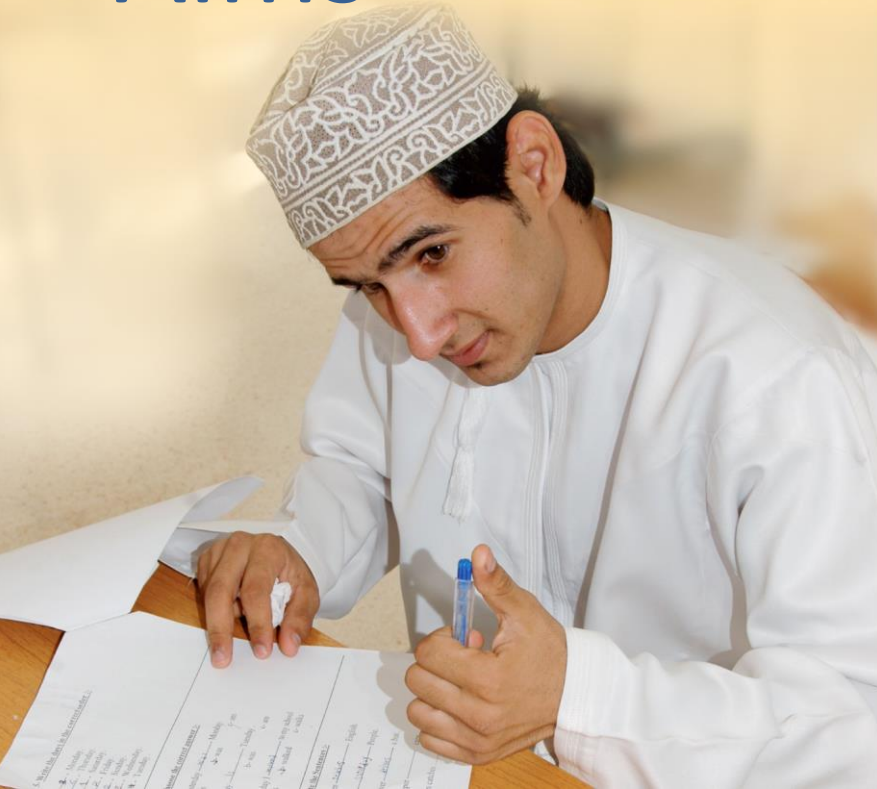
Justification



- **The need** for a school evaluation system based on the principles of assessing, following-up and supporting schools.
- **The need** to identify duties and responsibilities and a transparent follow-up to help the educational system to overcome difficulties affecting student learning.

School Evaluation Centre Project (in progress)

Aims



- Spread a culture of school evaluation.
- Practice accountability to assist school development.
- Locate high performing and low performing schools in order to build on strengths and overcome weaknesses.
- Use results of school evaluation to design and implement professional development programmes and school developmental plans.



Children's Rights



Oman Children's Act of 2014 guarantees children's rights.

Regarding education:

- Education is compulsory for ALL until the end of basic education (grade 10). All children have the right to free education in public schools until the completion of post-basic education (grade 12).
- It promotes the values of equality and non-discrimination on grounds of religion, race, ethnicity, social origin, gender or disability.



Specific Programmes

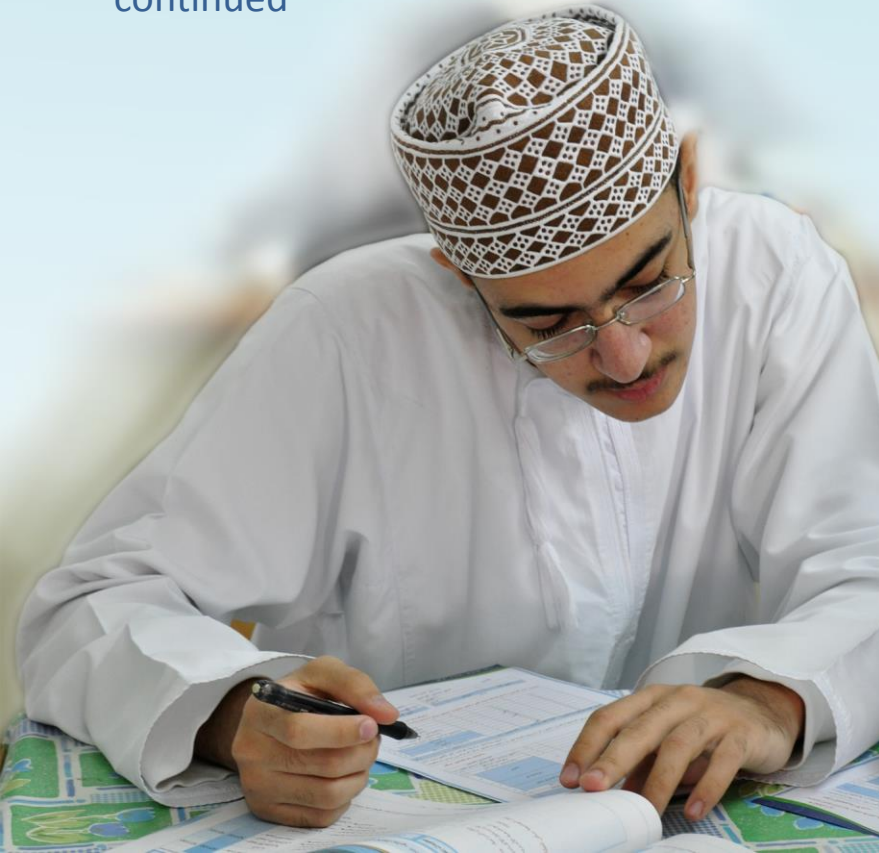


- **Social and psychological services** are provided at school, regional and ministry levels.
- **Health awareness and nutrition programmes.**
- The **Integrated Special Needs Students Programme** in mainstream government schools.
- The **Learning Difficulties Remediation Programme** for Students requiring assistance in literacy and numeracy.
- Pre-Schooling services “**Reception classes**” established in remote areas. Involved 86 classes in 2016/2017, and 1933 students since the project started in 2005.
- The Ministry’s **National Career Guidance Centre** coordinates with relevant authorities and the private sector to provide ALL students, including those from disadvantaged families, with opportunities to enter the labour market.



Specific Programmes

continued



- **His Majesty the Sultan's Scholarship Programme** was launched in 1980 in Sultan Private School. It is intended for well achieving disadvantaged students.
- Schools coordinate with concerned authorities and the private sector to provide financial support to students for stationary, meals, etc.
- The Government provides low-income students with scholarships to study at universities and colleges, both in the Sultanate and abroad. The Career Guidance Centre publicises these opportunities to students when at school.

Our children..our future



Thank you for your attention