

Chapter Seven

Social Development Issues in UAE

Chapter Outline

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Social Welfare

- * The state established social centers for women's development and for creating social and cultural awareness,
- * Also, rehabilitation centers for the disabled and nursing homes to integrate them into the social life.
- * Youth centers and many sports and cultural clubs were established with the purpose of educating the young people culturally, socially, and athletically.

Overview of the features of social life in UAE society

- * UAE has the Islamic ethics and the Arab chivalry and high dignity; the young and the old observed the teachings of Islam.
- * Everyone in UAE has experienced social solidarity and care for individuals.
- * The life of pearl diving, traveling away from family to a living was made possible because of the tribal system. The tribal life of the extended family (married and unmarried living in the same house, run by one of the parents who give advice and in return was obeyed).

Overview of the features of social life in UAE society

- * They learn how to share good and bad times with joy and sorrow.
- * In Ramadan, all the streets near the mosques are covered with meals that are served and available to everyone and even strangers.
- * The neighboring houses send the best food to the mosques and to neighbors sharing food and joy.
- * The Eid festivals highlight the phenomena of harmony and communication. Neighbors and relatives participated in decorating the area.

Overview of the features of social life in UAE society

- * The ruler would share the participation in horse-riding and playing with swords.
- * Weddings are joyful occasions. These occasions were characterized with less spending.
- * Families show their happiness by helping those who are getting married with food and ornaments.

The concept of Development

- * Development is defined as “ all the processes and efforts that are planned to produce a sequence of social and economic changes intended to increase the overall welfare of society members and take the society to a better social and economic status.”
- * The requirements of the social development are:
 - *intended change in the social structure
 - *rebuilding the existing social system

The strategy of the family development foundation

- * This strategy (2010-2014) is considered a quality addition and a turning point in the social work including:
 1. Care initiatives and support for the elderly
 2. Child development initiatives
 3. Family development initiatives

The strategy of the family development foundation

- * This advancement can be materialized in the following ways:
 1. Ensuring survival (food-housing- clothing...)
 2. Self respect by ensuring individuals' dignity and pride within the community.
 3. Freedom (such as fighting poverty, disease and ignorance)

Pre-oil social services and social aspects of development

- * UAE society is known as a tribal society associated together by tribal ties and marriage relationships.
 - 1. In-laws relationship are established according to customs and traditions.
 - 2. Alliance which prohibits fighting and propagates the adoption of logical reasoning, dialogue, cooperation and understanding.
- “alliance is a social law and the basis for cooperation of individuals of social services for the tribe’s members.”

Pre-oil social services and social aspects of development

1-Pattern of optional social services:

- A-These services were provided for those who had a ship wreck, emergency, death, stolen,... Affected families would receive aid from the tribe. It's often associated w/ the degree of kinship.
- B- If the leader of the tribe faces political or social problems (eg. enters a war with some tribe, or his son wants to get married,..) every member helps according to his abilities. ,..) This is called "alshofeh" (a system of assistance) The head of the tribe will also make up any loss.

Pre-oil social services and social aspects of development

2-The pattern of obliged social services:

It is a mandatory service imposed on members of the tribe by the head for various social services. It's collected from those engaged with economic activities (pearl trading,..) it's called "Al Taraz)

- * This money would go to provide defense and protection , salaries for those who work in the mosques, or people who are unable to work.
- * Terms of social welfare: takaful, al-fazaa, taraz, alshofeh, Al-musafer's khan(travellers' inn),al-wilaya

Pre-oil social services and social aspects of development

3-Voluntary and humanitarian services before the union:

- *Owners of big houses in UAE would throw parties in public and private events.
- *They lend each other money in order to start a business.
- *They help a divorced women who was unjustly treated to take care of her children. They also claim her dowry from her husband in order to secure her family.

Pre-oil social services and social aspects of development

- * The **voluntary work** is an activity done by motivated individuals without seeking wages or salaries.
- * This activity is based on Islamic teachings and guaranteed by a system of social solidarity. (like employees of zakat, carrying water from the springs, building houses,...)
- * Also volunteers help orphans, elderly, children and women which later progressed into governmental institutions.

Pre-oil social services and social aspects of development

4-Health services were very low:

- * Patients were treated with traditional herbal medicine, stinging with fire, and cupping.
- * There were also religious families who would read Quran and some prayers on children who were thin and women who fails to nurse her child.
- * In fact, mortality rate was high especially among children.

Characteristics of social welfare before federation

Characteristics of social welfare before federation:

- * It had effect on maintaining social cohesion in the society.
- * It is a moral duty and provided service without discrimination.
- * Embodied the wealthy people with responsibility towards the society.
- * Social solidarity with the tribe
- * There were no specialized professional working in this area
- * No written policies to guide direction of the social welfare program

Social development and services after federation

- * The emirates adopted the concept of “welfare and care state”. It provides the needs of society in the areas of income, education, health, food, and housing.
- * Sheikh Zayed’s say: “Man is the most precious of what we own”
- * The social affair sector is one of the key developed departments.

Social development and services after federation

1-Education services:

There was a significant increase in the number of schools, classrooms, students, teachers and administrators at all level of education. This led to improve the quality and quantity through renovation of curricula, teaching and examination methods.

<u>1991</u>	<u>2009</u>
Public schools: 503	Public schools: 765
Private schools:289	Private schools: 702

Social development and services after federation

- * The rate of illiteracy is less than 7% of the age groups between 15-45.
- * Ministry of education supervises 57 universities, colleges, institutions providing services in the field of higher education.
- * The observer would notice the process of spreading quality education in the cities, rural areas, and even remote areas and islands.

Social development and services after federation

2-Health services:

In 1996, The World Health Organization chose Dubai and Abu-Dhabi to be among the top 3 health cities at the Arab and Middle East.

UAE is the eighth in the Arab world in health care for the children.

It succeeded to reduce the infant mortality rate to 19 in each 1000 births noting that the global average is 89 in 1000 births.

Social development and services after federation

- * The state succeeded in eradicating polio completely from the country
- * The citizens are able now to have the most complex surgical operations in the hospitals in uae.
- * The rate is one doctor per 2.24 bed treatment.
- * The number of government hospitals is 31.
- * The number of health centers are over100.

Social development and services after federation

3- Cultural Services:

- * The cultural services beginnings were crystallized by the early establishment of the cultural and theatrical associations as well as public associations.
- * Holding conferences and seminars as well as launching Sharjah International Book Fair which focused on the arts and culture of the child.
- * The efforts were strengthened by the presence of T.V., radio stations, newspapers and magazines.

Cultural services

Indicator	1975	recently
T.V. stations	3	7
Radio	4	7
Newspaper	3	7
Magazines	5	25
Libraries	9	28
# of sports and cultural clubs	0	35

A table showing the development in the state

Social development and services after federation

4- Housing services:

The material change of housing has resulted in rising standards of living of the population. Almost all houses has refrigeration, microwave, water, electricity, radio, fax, computers, play station,... This contributed to increase of leisure time and enabled citizens to find ample time to practice hobbies and complete post graduate degrees.

Social development and services after federation

* In 1975, 1074 houses were distributed to the citizens, while in 1993 14,820 houses were distributed. Sheikh Zayed believed that housing services are the basic need of the citizen.

5- Improving the situation of women:

Women stood in front of her spouse during the struggle for survival. She struggled the hard nature in order to provide her family needs.

Social development and services after federation

- * The beginning of women started with her education which was a starting point to her excel in all majors.
- * The political leaders and rulers were supportive to women issues.
- * Women had always been a partner in agriculture or in family care.
- * Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak: “We are sure that women in some European countries are struggling for their right of equality with men, but there is no doubt that this right is guaranteed in UAE.

Social development and services after federation

- * Women's Public Union was established in 1975.
- * Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak was elected the Chairperson of this union to achieve its goals culturally, politically, and socially.
- * Women's Public Union participated in many world conferences and now all the states have women associations.
- * In 2006, women participated in FNC elections.
- * In 2008, 2 ambassadors to UAE were appointed.
 - * In 2009, first female judge was appointed.

Association of public benefits has a primary objective which is the social welfare in all fields whether they are material or moral

Association kind	Number	%
Folk arts	30	24%
Public and culture services	28	21%
Humanitarian services	11	9%
Vocational services	20	16%
Women services	9	7.5%
Religious services	4	3.5%
Theaters	9	7.5%

Social Welfare Services

1-family care: (extended family-nuclear family)

The social assistance given has a direct effect in increasing reproduction, care, and upbringing of children to ensure a decent living for them.

Department of Family and childhood welfare:

It has 3 sections:

1. Department of family welfare
2. Childhood care section
3. Department of custody

Social Welfare Services

Nurseries are under the supervision of ministry of social affairs. For a nursery to be accepted, it has to be located in a quiet place, healthy environment (ventilation, lightning,..), and close to a city.

2-care for the disabled:

a-social assistance for the disabled: there are 45 centers in the state of which 25 is private.

Social Welfare Services

- 3- **Youth welfare**: develops plans and programs to ensure raising the young people's level culturally: in sports, technically, socially, and in media.
Sports' club, summer youth centers, youth association (scouts, hostels, theater, fishing, bowling).
- 4- **Marriage fund establishment**: in order to overcome the difficulties for young people to gain access to marriage facilitations.

Social Welfare Services

- * Reduce phenomenon of spinsterhood and its impact on society.
- * Find solutions to the problems resulting from divorce and random marriage.
 - * Reduction of marriage of foreigners.
- * Try to reduce the dowry and extravagant spending in weddings; “the dignity of girls is not the amount of their dowry”, Sheikh Zayed’s saying.

Social Welfare Services

- * Members of the tribes in Abu Dhabi agreed that the dowry should not exceed 70 thousand dhs with clothes for the bride.
- * The fund also worked on embodying the family concept and the taking care of it by maintaining it through financial support, moral support and encouraging them to have children to increase population. They were also encouraged to reduce marriage to foreigners and to reduce the spread of divorce.

Social Welfare Services

5-caring for the elderly: The law defines “old person” as a man or a woman of sixty years of age or more and doesn’t not have a person to support him. He/she doesn’t have enough income and is unable to work. They are also incapable of managing their own affairs.

*UAE society is characterized by being a young society because of the high percentage of the young people.

Social Welfare Services

- * In 1995, 2% of the total population are old.
- * In 2010 it is 12.6% and expected to be 19.4% in 2025.
- * UAE considers caring for the elderly one of the first priorities. There are elderly care centers in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ajman. There are also medical rehabilitation and elderly resorts in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Social Welfare Services

- * The state tries to provide social security, social insurance, and social assistance.
- * The percentage of married couples was 69.6%, 26% widows, 1.5% disabled elderly.
- * Sheikh Khalifa increased the aid by 75% to the elderly.

Beneficiary Groups of Social Welfare Services

- * Old people, divorced women, married students are the largest beneficiary groups.
- * Followed by widows, deserted, wives of non-citizen, orphans, the physically impaired, prisoner's families, children with unknown parents and the exceptional cases of those in need of assistance.