

Preparing for External Quality Review: Critical Success Factors for Vocational Institutions

By: Dr. Jameel Hasan – Ms. Fatema Alhayki

Abstract

This paper identifies the critical success factors which have led to outstanding review results for vocational institutions in Bahrain. A checklist in preparation for a Bahrain Qualifications Authority (BQA) review was designed in 2012 and has been used over the last 5 years in 6 vocational institutions. Data gathered during the implementation of this checklist led to the identification of the success factors that determine the achievement of an outstanding review result. 19 success factors were identified. 11 of these success factors relate to institutional achievements and 6 relate to Institution processes. At the core of these latter 6 critical success factors was the effective implementation of a learner-centred approach. The other 5 success factors included: meeting diverse needs of learners; talented learners' progress and achievement; the progress and achievement of learners with specific challenges; benchmarking of learners' achievement against international providers and; evidence of planning and its positive impact on learners. This study provided a set of recommendations to enable vocational institutions to strengthen their practices in relation to the top 6 success factors.

Participants and Bios

Dr Jameel Hasan
Jameel Hasan is Institutional Review Manager at Bahrain Polytechnic, with key responsibilities for quality improvement and facilitating organizational reviews. He has 12 years' experience with the Ministry of Education, being responsible for Quality Assurance, Assessment and Moderation, Psychometric Testing and Coaching. His current research interests include programme review, quality assurance and psychometric testing.

