

The role of higher education institutions in Oman to provide its graduates the skills and knowledge of the twenty-first century

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Abstract: The main purpose of this study is to identify the role of higher education institutions in Oman to provide its graduates **the skills and knowledge of the twenty-first century**. The samples consisted of (70) graduated students from diverse Oman colleges and universities. A survey methodology with quantitative research design by designing 21st Century Knowledge and Skills Survey was used.

The results revealed that the role of higher education institutions providing its graduates 21st century knowledge and skills was moderate. The results also revealed that the highest role of higher education institutions was career and life skills, then information, media and technology skills. On other side, the lowest role of higher education institutions was general skills (global awareness, entrepreneurial literacy, civic literacy, environmental literacy, health literacy), then learning and innovation skills. There were no significant differences in the role of higher education institutions to provide its graduates the skills and knowledge of the twenty-first century across graduate's college or university.

The study recommended that the 21st knowledge and skills have to be included into higher education programs. In addition, higher education institutions have to redesign their programs to be suitable with the local market requirements and needs.

Keywords: 21st century knowledge and skills, higher education institutions, learning and innovation skills, communication skills, technology skills, career and life skills.