



The Annual Report

Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD)

2009 - 2010

Tel.: 25353681/2/3 - Ext.: 300
Fax: 25358914 - Mob.: 94427262
E-mail: kaldkt@gmail.com
Website: www.kaldkuwait.com



In the Name of God
The Most Merciful
The most Compassionate



His Highness Sheikh

Sabah AL-Ahmad AL-Sabah

Amir of State of Kuwait



His Highness Sheikh

Nawaf AL-Ahmad AL-Sabah

Crown Prince of State of Kuwait

Our Sincere Thanks

To

Our Sponsor; Masharee Al Khair

Center for Child and Teaching

Our Board of Trustees

Our Employees

International Islamic charitable Organization

(for their support in printing this report)

Table of Contents

- Honorary Chairman's Message	8
- Chairperson's Message	9
- Masharee Al Khair	10
- The Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences	11
- KALD Board of Trustees	12
- KALD's Activities and Achievements	
- Activities to Support Parents of Students with Learning Difficulties:	
1- Lecture: "Catch Them Before They Fall"	13
2- Workshop: "Building Up your Son's Abilities and - Channelling his Potentials"	14
3- Workshop: "Say It As It Is"	14
Activities to Support Students with Learning Difficulties:	
1- KALD's First Carnival	15
2- KALD Honours Volunteers	16
2- Workshop: "Skills of Emotional Health and Intelligence"	17
Training Programmes for Professionals working with Students with Learning Difficulties:	
1- Training Session on Formative Assessment and Reading Development in Middle School	18
2- Workshop: "Learning Difficulties; a Reality to be Acknowledged"	18
3- Workshop: "In Their Shoes"	19
Activities to Enhance the Role of KALD:	
1- KALD's Participation in Riyadh Conference on ADHD	20
2- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with (College of Social Studies- Kuwait University)	20
3- Lecture: "Learning Difficulties Under the Microscope"	21
4- KALD's Participation in "The Youth; A Nation's Investment" Forum	21
5- KALD's Participation in University of Kuwait Sixth Conference	22
6- KALD's End of Year Ceremony	23
7- The National Media Campaign For Learning Difficulties; "Grant Me My Rights"	24

Honorary Chairman's Message

As the honorary chairperson of The Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences, it gives me great pleasure to announce that, with the blessings of His Royal Highness, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, and the co operation of the Minister of Work and Social Affairs, Dr. Muhammad Al Ifassi, and Mr. Abdellatif Al Rodan, KALD has been officially registered and published in the official gazette as a non- profit organization.

I am especially delighted to witness the impressive efforts that have been made by The Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences in supporting students with learning difficulties, their families and their schools through a variety of programs and activities and through hosting experts from Kuwait and from other countries to give lectures and present workshops on awareness, counseling and training.

In addition, KALD has diligently worked to enhance its status among other bodies that work in social service. KALD has participated in a number of conferences and other activities related to the field of learning difficulties and it has signed a memorandum of understanding with College of Social Studies-Kuwait University.

The co-operation between KALD and the Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching brought about a milestone in the work to raise awareness about learning difficulties. The National Media Campaign for Learning Difficulties was able to reach a large number of people who expressed their willingness to support the cause.

I promise to double the efforts to help achieving the goals set by KALD and to support the development of its plans and programs in a way that would meet new demands and needs. I would like to reiterate my sincere thanks to Mashari' Al Khair for its immense and continuous support that enabled the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences to take its place among the pioneering non- profit organizations in Kuwait.

Faisal Al-Ayyar



Chairperson's Message

The end of each year is the time when I look backward to reflect on what has KALD achieved and look forward to put plans for the future that would guarantee the association's development and progress and would enable it to reach its goals in supporting students with learning difficulties in private schools in particular and in Kuwait in general.

To be faithful to its goals, KALD distributed its workshops and lectures on the three main pivots in the educational process; the student, the family and the professionals working in schools. Entertainment was not forgotten. KALD's First Carnival gave students the chance to show their artistic talents which instilled joy in their hearts and helped in strengthening their self esteem.

The main event of the year was The National Media Campaign for Learning Difficulties, "Grant Me My Rights," which was organized by The Center of Child Evaluation and Teaching in cooperation with KALD.

The campaign which ran from 9 to 28 of May 2010 got intense television and newspaper's coverage and it was greatly effective in spreading awareness about learning difficulties and their effect on the individual and on the whole society.

Our calendar for the next year carries a lot of ambitions, activities as well as hard work as we are aware that Kuwait is heading towards an important stage in the development of its institutions and that we, like everyone else should play a role in the progress of our beloved country.

Finally, we ask God to bless our endeavour in serving our country and its people and we would like to thank all those who supported us, most important of which is Masharee Al Khair and The Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching.

Mrs. Amaal Al Sayer





**Mr. Abed Al Aziz
Al Jassar**

**Vice Chairman and
Managing Director**

Masharee Al Khair Charity Organization

Masharee Al-Khair is the charitable foundation of Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) and is supported by Group companies. It is also the main sponsor of the Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences. This organization initiates and develops a wide range of projects including restoration of Kuwait's historical heritage, educational scholarships, and assistance to sick and needy children.

Some of its other goals:

- Granting scholarships to excelling Kuwaiti nationals and Arab and Muslim students to pursue higher education and to carry out researches.
- Giving scholarships and prizes to excelling scholars in religious, social and artistic fields in recognition of their invaluable contributions.
- Giving financial help to high rank research and specialized training centers.



The Kuwaiti Association for Learning Differences (KALD)

KALD, which has been established in 2007 and which is located in the Center For Child Evaluation and Teaching, is a social welfare association based in Kuwait that collaboratively works towards helping students with learning differences. It works towards identifying and developing the capabilities of these students and to support them academically, psychologically and socially.

Goals of KALD

- To help and support students with learning difficulties academically, psychologically and socially.
- To organize awareness programs for parents of children with learning difficulties that include early detection, effective intervention, instructions to diagnostic centers, and ways of living and adapting to those difficulties.
- To organize courses and host workshops on different learning difficulties for the professionals working in this domain.
- To work and exchange information and experience with local, regional, and international institutions dealing with learning difficulties.
- To follow up-to-date studies, research, and technologies and provide the information through KALD's website and library.



KALD TEAM

Amaal Al Sayer	Chairperson
Noriyeh Al Ameer	Executive Manager
Alia Qardan	Consultant
Dana Al Nahas	Executive Secretary

The Kuwaiti Association For Learning differences (KALD)

Board of Trustees

Dr. Huda Shaaban	Director- Al Nibrac International Bilingual School Chairperson - Learning Difficulties Professional Association
Dr. Badria Al Hajji	Assistant professor - The College of Basic Education - The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET)
Dr. Nabila Al Medleg	English language teacher - The College of Basic Education – The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET)
Dr. Kamla Al Ayyad	Manager - The National Theatre for Culture, Art and Literature. Member- Association of Child Protection
Wafa' Nusaibeh	Supervisor – Inspection of Private Schools Department - Ministry of Education
Souad Al-Thuwaikh	Scientific Assistant – Kuwait University
Kholood Al Sammar	Experience in Special Needs

Friends of KALD

Dr. Lulwa Hamada	Associate Professor and Chairperson of Special Education Department / Public Authority for Applied Education and Training
Suad Al-Sowaidan	Director of the Regional Center for Child & Motherhood
Ibtsam Al- Qauod	The Department of Sociology & Social Work College of Social Sciences – Kuwait University
Dr. Fatima Al Awadi	Consultant Developmental Pediatrician - Fatima clinic

KALD's Activities to Support Parents of Students with Learning Difficulties

A lecture entitled "Catch Them Before They Fall," 22nd December 2009

KALD hosted Dr. Lolwa Hamadah, Associate Professor and Chairperson of Special Education Department/ Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, to talk to parents of students with learning difficulties, to answer their questions, and to discuss the most effective ways of helping those very special students.



Dr. Hamadah introduced to the audience the Response To Intervention approach (RTI) (a method of academic intervention to provide early identification of learning disabilities) which she believes is a better alternative to the ability-achievement discrepancy model, which requires children to exhibit a severe discrepancy between their IQ and academic achievement as measured by standardized tests.

A Workshop Entitled “Building up your Son’s Abilities and Channeling his Potentials,” 9 March 2010

Parents of students with learning difficulties were at the center of another awareness activity organized by KALD; a one day workshop entitled “Your Son’s Abilities and How to Channel His Potentials,” was given by Mrs. So’ad Al Thuwaikh- Kuwait University. Al Thuwaikh emphasized the role the family plays in caring for children with learning difficulties because children feel important and loved when they see that their families are supporting them. Feeling loved and appreciated are key to a healthy and high self-esteem, which constitutes a prerequisite to success and fulfillment.



A Workshop entitled “Say It As It Is,” 4 April 2010

A workshop on how parents can understand and communicate better with their children was directed by Mrs. Nabila Al Midlij, a certified trainer at The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. A group of mothers participated in the workshop which was held at the Center for Child Evaluation and Teaching.



KALD's Activities to Support Students with Learning Difficulties **KALD First Carnival, 23 January 2010**

Under the patronage of Shiekhah Shoug Mohammad Al Jarrah Al Subah KALD celebrated its first carnival for students with learning difficulties between the ages of 8 and 16 years of age. A group of young volunteers from LOYAC Kuwait and KELTA ran the show with great dedication and commitment.



The carnival, which was sponsored by Mashari' Al Khair and Al Watanieh Telecom, aimed at shedding the light on the issue of learning difficulties and at urging those in authority to help and support students whose lives are greatly affected by the difficulties they face while learning. This event gave them the chance to show their talents and creativity in front of a large number of other students, parents, and school members.



KALD honours volunteers, 27 January 2010

An afternoon tea at The Chairman's Club was held to honour the volunteers whose work contributed to the success of KALD's carnival on the 27th of January.

Mrs. Amaal Al Sayer, The Chairperson of Kald, thanked the volunteers for their work and enthusiasm and presented them with certificates as tokens of gratitude.



A workshop entitled “Skills of Emotional Health and Intelligence,” 15 – 17 November 2009

Dr. Mustafah Abu Sa'ed, a psychological counsellor, an educator and trainer in self- help techniques, conducted a workshop on emotional health and intelligence and the skills needed to attain success in all aspects of life to students between the ages of 12 and 18 year olds. Abu Sa'ed asserted that studies involving tens of thousands of people proved that one's IQ enables the person to achieve academic excellence and get high paid jobs but it is one's EQ that enables that person to get promoted and be successful.



KALD's Activities to Support Professionals Working with Students with Learning Difficulties

A Training Session on Formative Assessment and Reading Development, 23 - 26 August 2009

KALD started its activities for 20092010- by sponsoring a three days intense training session on "Formative Assessment and Reading Development in Middle Years" that was hosted and organized by Fawazia Al Sultan International School.

The training session presented by Mrs. Karen Davis, a Program Consultant from Sunrise Division in Manitoba, Canada who expressed her great joy for coming to Kuwait for the second time.

A workshop entitled "Learning Difficulties; A Reality to be Acknowledged," 25 - 28 October 2009

KALD hosted Mrs. Nancy Naghour from Jordan to present an awareness workshop on learning difficulties which was attended by a group of leading figures from University of Kuwait , Child Teaching and Evaluation Center , The Ministry of Education, The Association of Child Protection, and KALD's Board of Trustees.

Mr. Naghour based her discussion on the definition set by the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities in the USA. These disorders are intrinsic to the individual, presumed to be due to central nervous system dysfunction, and may occur across the life span. Problems in self-regulatory behaviours, social perception, and social interaction may exist with Learning Disability but do not by themselves, constitute Learning Disability.

Although Learning Disabilities may occur concomitantly with other disabilities, (e.g. sensory impairment, mental retardations, serious emotional disturbance), or with extrinsic influences (such as cultural differences, insufficient or inappropriate instruction), they are not the result to those conditions or influences."

At the end of the workshop, which was characterized by interaction and enthusiasm, certificates were given to participants who attended 15 training hours.



A workshop entitled “In Their Shoes,” 18 - 20 Jan 2010

KALD organized a three-day workshop for the administrators, psychological and social workers in private schools that cater for students with learning difficulties. The workshop that was presented by Dr. Nabila Al Midlij, a certified trainer at The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, aimed at training the participants on how:

- To have a positive attitude towards themselves
- To be realistic in the way they deal with their surroundings
- To be able to deal with parents in a positive and effective way
- To accept their students for who they are and deal with their problems in a realistic and effective way



At the end of the workshop certificates were given to participants who expressed their wish that their schools would host Dr. Midlij in the future so as a larger number of teachers could benefit from her experience and knowledge.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Mohamad Al Dahess, Head of Inspection of Private Schools Department - Ministry of Education, Mrs. Amaal Al sayyer, Chairperson of KALD, and Mrs. Noriyeh Al Amiri, Executive Manager of KALD.

Activities to Enhance the Role Of KALD

KALD's Participation in Riyadh's Conference on ADHD 11 -17 November 2009

Represented by its Chairperson, Mrs. Amaal Al Sayyer, and its Executive Director, Mrs. Noriyah Al Amiri, KALD attended The joint international conference of the ADHD Supper Group of American Academy of Pediatrics that was held in Riyadh in November 2009.

The conference targeted various groups, including clinicians, researchers, educators, parents and all interested in issues of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The conference aimed at enabling participants to training in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. It also discussed latest methods in caring for ADHD children. The event will witness participation of 25 experts from Saudi Arabia, USA, UK and Canada.

The Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with College of Social Studies-Kuwait University,10 December 2009

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between College of Social Studies-Kuwait University and KALD to develop and enhance their cooperation in the academic, professional, educational and training fields.

The memorandum was signed by the dean of the College, Dr. Abed Al Ridah Aseeri, and the Chairperson of KALD, Mrs. Amaal Al Sayyer. The signing was attended by Mrs. Ibtisam Al Qauod, Department of Sociology and Social Work, and Mrs. Noriyah Al Amiri, the Executive Manager of KALD.



Lecture entitled “Learning Difficulties Under the Microscope” 10 March 2010

Dr. Najeeb Khozam, the General Counselor for the Minister of Education in Egypt and Professor of Educational Psychology in Ain Shams University, gave a lecture on learning difficulties. The lecture was attended by Mrs. Amaal Al Sayyer, the Chairperson of KALD, and Mr. Faisal Al Ayyar, the Honorary Chairman of KALD, members of KALD and its board members, and a number of specialists and advocates for students with learning difficulties.

Dr. Khozam affirmed that neglecting students with LD is wasting an important human resource because those are intelligent people and some are even talented and creative. The guest expressed his admiration for Ministry of Education in Kuwait for the great steps it had taken and for KALD for supporting students with learning difficulties.



KALD Participates in “The Youth; A Nation’s Investment” Forum, 12- 14 April 2010

KALD had a noticeable presence in a forum organized by the Institute of Child and Mother Health in Kuwait. Members of KALD attended the forum activities, gave a short presentation of KALD, and distributed brochures on the public.



University of Kuwait Sixth Conference, 23 -25 March 2010

KALD participated in the University of Kuwait Sixth Conference / College of Social Sciences. The conference entitled “Family Issues in our Society,” was under the patronage of the Minister of Higher Education, Mrs. Modi Al Hmoud, and was attended by the university president and a group of specialists from Kuwait and other Arab countries.

Members of KALD attended lectures and workshops especially those related to learning difficulties, the problems they create in families, and the effective ways of helping people with ADD/ADHD. A special booth for KALD was set in the exhibition area and brochures and other publications about the association were distributed on the public.

An English Class to Students at The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, 21 April 2010

In order to encourage the new generation to specialize in teaching students with learning difficulties, Mr. Amaal Al Sayyer, Chairperson of KALD, gave an English class on learning difficulties to students in the English Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.



The End of Year Ceremony (2009 - 2010)

The Kuwaiti Association For Learning differences honoured its Board of Trustees, employees as well as volunteers who supported who supported the association in its endeavour to help students with learning difficulties during a ceremony held at the Marina Hotel on the 22 of June.

booth for KALD was set in the exhibition area and brochures and other publications about the association were distributed on the public.



The National Media Campaign for Learning Difficulties: “Grant Me My Rights” 9 – 28 May 2010 A Preliminary Meeting 8 May

The organizing committee of The National Media Campaign for Learning Difficulties: “Grant Me My Rights” met with members of CCET and KALD, specialists, parents and supporters of students with learning difficulties to explain the goals of the campaign and to discuss how each one of them can contribute to its success.

Mrs. Amaal Al Sayyer, noted that the campaign is a joint work between CCET and KALD who work with and support students with learning difficulties in all schools in Kuwait. The campaign has been specifically held in timing with the application of the new law for the disabled so the voices of students with LD, their families and their schools would be heard and their rights preserved. Attendants were divided to groups according to their specializations and field of work and they discussed their contributions to the campaign.



Press Conference 10 May 2010

CCET and KALD held a press conference to announce the launching of the National Media Campaign for Learning Difficulties: “Grant Me MY Rights” which will run from the 9th to the 28th of May. The conference was attended by a group of specialists in learning difficulties, members of the CCET and KALD, parents and media members.

Souad Al Thwaikh, President of the campaign’s organizational committee noted that the campaign that advocates for the rights of students with LD, aims to deliver three main messages: “My difference makes me special” which indicates that students with LD are intelligent and capable of succeeding in their school, at work and in their social life but they are different in the way they learn, “I am suffering” which indicates that they are suffering in silence without being noticed by their teacher or their parents; therefore, failure awaits them if not treated early and “We need your support.” Students with LD need the support of everyone, such as their families, schools, society and government.

Dr. Issa Jassem, Assistance Executive Director at CCET and a member in the organizational committee noted, “The new law has treated students with LDs unfairly in two points. First, it does not include psychological and learning disabilities in its definition of disabilities. Second, it mentions learning disabilities only in clauses 9 and 10 without mentioning any details about their rights. Thus, we call for a clarification list for this law to be put by specialists in learning disabilities so that those students would be given their full rights.”



The Signing of a Petition to Protect Rights of LD Students, 10 May 2010

As a result of the understanding memorandum that was signed between The University of Kuwait and KALD, a gathering to support “Grant Me My Rights” campaign was organized by Mrs. Ibtisam Al Qauod, the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Kuwait University.

During the gathering a petition was signed by advocates of students with LD asking for the protection of their rights. The petition was later submitted to The Minister of Work and Social Affairs.

Follow up Meetings

The organizing committee for the National Media Campaign for Learning Difficulties as well as all those involved in the campaign held a number of meetings to follow up on the progress of the campaign.

The campaign got a comprehensive coverage; eight television programmes, ten newspaper reports and interviews, and seven radio talks.

