

O Minister, Have Mercy On Us

Prior to Eid, a couple statements grabbed my attention. The first was a headline reporting on the comments of the respectable deputy Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Jaran; and the other was for the respectable Hind Al-Subeeh, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs. The first headline asked the question: "Do we really need 800,000 half-educated Indians and 500,000 Arabs?" Let us first respond to the deputy as I believe his words may have failed him. The people you mention are humans with dignity, and we shouldn't be describing them in ways that imply mockery. I am sure you did not mean it like this. You are a professor after all, and people who possess such a high academic level as you tend to exercise greater care when choosing their words. I'm sure the editor or copywriters must have been exaggerating when they summarized your sentiments with such a headline.

But let's look at these numbers just a bit, the sum of these two numbers is 1.3 million, which means we are talking about nearly half the population of foreigners. Then what about the other half? Do they meet your standard for being educated? Also, I noticed that your comments were only directed at the Indian and Arab communities, but I don't quite understand why. In my humble opinion, Arabs and Indians have been loyal friends of Kuwait far longer than any other communities. But if the problem you see isn't really the nationality as much as the level of education, then I have a question for all the officials. If you happened to need a plumber, a dyer, or someone to collect your garbage every day, what level of education would you prefer them to have? A Master's degree perhaps?! The same goes for carpenters, blacksmiths, and bus drivers. Those professions do not require a university degree, but they do require trained professional labor. Or if you wish,