
الجمعية البحرينية للإحصاء Bahrain Statistical Society

Report on Bahrain Statistical Society's celebration of the World Statistics Day

As was planned, Bahrain Statistical Society (BSS) celebrated the World Statistics Day (WSD) on 7th November 2015. The event was inspired by this years slogan "Better Data...Better Lives".

The celebration was in collaboration with Applied Science University (ASU) – Bahrain which hosted the event and provided all logistics support. Among the distinguished audience was: the President of ASU, the academic staff from ASU, Central Informatics Organization, Higher Education Council – Ministry of Education, Supreme Council for Women, Polytechnic Bahrain, King Abdulaziz University (from Saudi Arabia), members of BSS, and employees of private sector companies. Newspapers reports participated to cover this international event.

The event consisted of three parts. Part 1 included 4 presentations delivered to promote Statistics and its applications. Part 2 was the announcement of the Statistical Excellence Award. In Part 3, a statistical research with public benefit was announced. The programme took place in both Arabic and English languages.

The master of event Mr. Husain Al Shehab, introduced the programme of the event, briefly described Bahrain Statistical Society. Then he provided a brief about the World Statistics Day and notified the audience about the United Nations General Secretary announcements of this event, which was kept available in English and Arabic languages.

Mr. Husain holds a master degree in International Business Management from Bradford Business School and a Bachelor of Engineering from University of Bradford.

Thereafter, the Chairperson and Founder of BSS Mr. Jalal Majeed Naser, who is a Principal Consultant with JAFCON Consultants for Productivity Improvement and Senior Statistician introduced the 4 main speakers prior of delivering their presentations.

Part 1 – 4 Presentations to promote Statistics

The first speaker was Professor Saad Darwish from ASU. Since 1987, he holds a PhD degree in Business Administration: Risk Management from Polytechnic of Central London in Collaboration with Surrey University – United Kingdom. He is the Vice President for Admin., Finance & Community Engagement at ASU Bahrain since May 2013 till date.

His presentation was presented in English and titled “Statistics Applications Applied Science University”. Prof. Darwish shared that: “Between the year 2012 and 2015, more than 1000 students studied Statistics at ASU and nearly every year, 300 students are involved in statistics courses”. He continued highlight that the library resources at ASU included 80 hard copy books and periodicals in Statistics: 50 titles in Arabic and 30 titles in English. In addition, the Statistics topics of the e-library included more than 3000 Academic Journals and nearly 74000 e-books.

Furthermore, Prof. Darwish described briefly how ASU Measurement & Evaluation Unit, which is part of the Quality & Accreditation Center, produces all required Statistics for Decision Makers at ASU. This is backed with 18 surveys that take place regularly at ASU as part of its Management Information System. Examples of the surveys included: Survey for Dean’s Appraisal, Survey for Academic Staff Evaluation, Survey for market needs, Survey for the Quality of Library Services, Survey for students evaluation for the quality of teaching and Survey for ASU graduates.

Prof. Darwish concluded stating that ASU renews IBM SPSS license every year, so as it is possible by both academic staff and students to utilize this statistical package.

The second speaker was Dr. Maha Alali from Saudi Arabia. She obtained the PhD degree in 2008 in Educational Psychology. She has published several researches, participated in many conferences, conducted training courses, and authored two books. Part of her recent researches was a study to estimate the cost of women violence – Eastern province as a case, and evaluation of the training centers of kindergarten teachers in Saudi Arabia.

Her presentation was delivered in Arabic. The title was “The Role of Statistics in Constructing Tests and Measures”. Dr. Maha explained the steps to design a reliable measure. She presented real examples in a friendly clear manner. During her presentation, the audience were involved by responding to the famous Psychologist Julian Rotter scale to assess the internal and external locus of control, as part of his Social Learning and Clinical Psychology theory.

Reliability and factor analysis were illustrated with examples and explained clearly.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Maha shared with the audience the results. As per Rotter measure, 89% of the audience has internal control, whereas the remaining 11% tend to have an external control.

The third speaker was Mrs. Maha Al Mandeel, the Assistant Undersecretary for Human Resources, Finance and IT sector at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. She is also an Excellence Consultant with Bahrain Excellence Center. She holds a bachelor degree in Computer Science from Ottawa University in Canada. Mrs. Maha published several papers. She was awarded the best Arabic presented paper in 2004.

Her presentation was delivered in Arabic. Mrs. Maha presented a recent programme that took place at the ministry that aimed at strengthening Bahraini Overage People Quality of Life in Bahrain. This project was based relevant statistics and a comprehensive survey that was designed to address all aspects related to overage people quality of life. This project is considered a success model. Bahrain cabinet works on promoting and sharing it with other Arab and friend countries.

Overage was defined at above 60 years. However, currently, overage starts at 64 years particularly which is retirement age.

The project defined clearly the quality of life to be “the happiness in caring for self, renewability, freedom and self-dependence are the key indicators for a prosperous and quality life of an overage“. In details, there were 5 major factors for overage quality of life that were considered. These were: environmental, societal, economical, health and knowledge factors.

During this project, the developed psychometric test was statistically assessed for objectivity and validity using IBM SPSS. Reliability was found high for the first and second pilot samples. Validity was at 89% for the first pilot sample and reached 93% in the second pilot sample.

Mrs. Maha continued sharing the main findings. On average, Bahraini overage quality of life was found to be 59% approximately. This was classified as poor quality of life. The environmental factor was very good, while the economical factor was low particularly for women. However, the health factor was acceptable.

Mrs. Maha added that: in response of the findings, the ministry called, and already started, improvement actions to uplift the low unaccepted overage quality of life. The priorities and action plans were set to ensure such improvement in near future. The ministry also established and extend collaborations with relevant partners from the community.

At the end of Part 1, Mrs. Aysha Murad the Chief Scientific Research Development at the Secretariat General of the Higher Education Council – Ministry of Education for the last 2 years. She serves on three national committees to improve the quality of technical and vocational education, the career Guidance system in Bahrain and the National Higher Education Skills and Innovation Steering Committee. Before joining the HEC in September 2013, Aysha was the Cultural Counselor at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Washington, D.C and the Director of the Cultural Office from January 2007 to July 2013. Aysha is a graduate of the University of Oregon in the U. S. and the University of Bahrain.

Aysha presented the National Research Strategy for the Kingdom of Bahrain in English. She shared the vision, objectives and goals of the strategy. The vision statement is “Bahrain will excel in key fields of research of importance to the Kingdom’s economy and social welfare, and possess the broad research capacity needed to access and use global knowledge.”

The objectives consists of two categories:

Institutional reforms

1. Establish a national research governance infrastructure
2. Strengthen University Research Capacity
3. Strengthen the integration of academic institutions with industry, international research institutions & entities focused on Bahrain’s economic & social priorities
4. Improve public awareness and understanding of research and innovation

Research focus

5. Address national research priorities

During the presentation, Aysha highlighted what is required at national level as well at university level. Among the actions required at university

level was that universities should be spending 3% of the revenue on researches at minimum.

She shared that Bahrain rank in Innovation and Research improved this year compared to last year. The rank last year was out of 144, while in this year it was out of 148. Bahrain rank improved particularly in:

- Capacity for innovation from 65 to 82
- Quality of scientific research institutions from 102 to 114
- Company spending on R&D from 85 to 99
- University-industry collaboration in R&D from 90 to 121

Part 2 – Statistical Excellence Award Awarding

Part 2 started by a brief description of Bahrain Statistical Society initiative to recognize distinguished statistical achievements and career. Mr. Jalal the Chairperson of BSS stated that the Statistical Excellence Award was an initiative which was first introduced in January 2015. He added that this recognition aim to encourage excellence in Statistics and its applications. It has three levels: Level 1 for distinguished achievements globally, Level 2 for distinguished achievements regionally and Level 3 for distinguished achievements locally. Furthermore, a fourth level was introduced on the World Statistics Day which is for excellent education attainment in completion bachelor degree in Statistics (GPA of honors).

He mentioned that the first award was in February 2015 awarded to Mr. Mohamad Elmasri, a Bahraini Consultant at UNESCO Institute for Statistics in Canada for his distinguished statistical work in developing a better methodology to measure the sub indicator average years of schooling of the United Nations Human Development Index.

Then BSS Chairperson announced the second time award. Mr. Hasan Albasri was awarded the Statistical Excellence Award for his local distinguished statistical career achievements. Mr. Hasan has over 30 years of statistical career experience. He holds a master and bachelor degrees in Statistics. His master thesis was titled “Impacts of

Measurement Errors on Estimation of Parameters in Linear Models”. He is competent in using 3 statistical programs: IBM SPSS, STATA and CPro. At present, Mr. Hasan works at the Ministry of Health – College of Health Sciences as a Biostatistics and SPSS Assistant Professor. He participated in several conferences and workshops in Bahrain and overseas. He has provided analytical assistance to 8 studies at the Ministry of Health. Mr. Hasan is a member of:

1. National Immunization Committee at Ministry of Health
2. Research Committee at College of Health Sciences
3. Non-communicable Diseases National Survey Committee
4. Oral Health National Survey Committee
5. Health Systems Performance Evaluation Committee

Part 3 – Statistical Research for Public benefit

Part 3 of the celebration of the World Statistics Day was the announcement of a research project about “Statistical Literacy and Quality of Applying Statistical Methods”. BSS Chairperson introduced this research as another initiative by the society aiming at enhancing and promoting Statistics applications. He pointed that the research benefit is for the public.

The research proposal was prepared by the Chairperson, reviewed by BSS members. Dr. Farzana Al Maraghi, member of BSS and the Director of Research at Higher Education Council – Ministry of Education provided valuable critique to the research proposal.

The research aims to uncover the following:

1. The extent of applying statistical methods in the postgraduate researches (master and PhD).
2. The extent of correctly and appropriately applying the statistical methods in the postgraduate researches.

3. The extent of appropriately interpreting, explaining and commenting on statistical results in the postgraduate researches.

The research will be completed within 3 months. Qualified team of statisticians will examine a sample of Bahraini postgraduate researchers of the academic year 2012/2013.

The Chairperson continued stating that: As applicable and relevant during the research period, the team involved will adhere to the ICC / ESOMAR international code on Market and Social Research.

Then he explained in short how the population and sample of this research. He mentioned that: Higher Education Council statistics show that the total number of Bahraini postgraduates was 795. To determine the sample size, Rasoft sample size calculator revealed the sample size for 5% margin of error, 95% confidence level and 50% response distribution as there is no previous distribution information was found available; was calculated to be 260, at minimum.

BSS Chairperson stated that the research results will be announced by next year. He called for volunteers from the society to join in conducting this research along with BSS team. All researchers interested to join were requested to send an email in this regard to BSS on: info@bahrainss.org

About Bahrain Statistical Society

Bahrain Statistical Society first was established electronically in 2012. The main objectives of BSS include the following:

1. to increase awareness of statistics in general, statistical techniques and statistical packages among individuals (researchers, students, consumers, etc.) or organizations (societies, companies, governmental organizations, etc.).
2. to improve and further develop the capabilities, skills and competencies of the society's members, as well as non-members

who are users of statistics, on using statistics, statistical techniques and statistical packages.

3. to conduct researches and studies for general publication with the view to benefit the society in general
4. to encourage researches based on statistical techniques and to promote statistical compliance at the highest levels
5. to strengthen the professional relationship between the society's members, as well as, the social relationship.

About the Word Statistics Day Celebration

The aim of the event was to: highlight applications of statistics and to promote the WSD slogan "better data ... better lives". Participating guest speakers will present their applications of applying statistics. Participants are from governmental and educational organizations.

At the end of the event, few statistical news were announced. Thank you and appreciation certificates were distributed to Applied Science University, Alwasat newspaper and to the four speakers.

Interestingly and worthy to mention that BSS member Mrs. Hala Hasan birthday is on 20th October, which is the World Statistics Day. This was celebrated by a birthday cake at the end of the event.

Central Informatics Organization, the governmental statistics body in Bahrain, announced its latest publication. The publication is

Photos of the event



Mr. Husain Al Shehab, Master of Event



Mr. Jalal Majeed Naser, Chairperson and Founder of Bahrain Statistical Society



Professor Saad Darwish delivering his presentation



Dr. Maha Alali delivering her presentation



Mrs. Maha Al Mandeel delivering her presentation



Mrs. Aysha Murad delivering her presentation



Mr. Hasan Albasri receiving the Statistical Excellence Award



Group photo 1



Group photo 2



Group photo 3 - audience showing the World Statistics Day slogan designed



Birthday cake for BSS member Mrs. Hala Hasa who birthday is on 20th October, the World Statistics Day



أحدث إصدارات الإدارة العامة للإحصاء
General Directorate of Statistics latest version

البحرين في أرقام 2014

بيانات ومعلومات إحصائية دقيقة حول
الأوضاع السكانية والاجتماعية والإقتصادية
والبيئية لمملكة البحرين

Bahrain In Figures 2014

Accurate data and statistical information
regarding the population situation, social,
and economic and environmental impacts of
the Kingdom of Bahrain



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