The Actuality, Inefficiency, and Needs of EFL Teacher-Preparation Programs in Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

Designing an effective English-teacher-preparation program and the provision of providing ongoing support and professional development opportunities are key compounding factors in preparing knowledgeable and competent English teachers linguistically and pedagogically as well as in facilitating their professional growth throughout their mammoth teaching journeys. This paper presents an in-depth discussion of the current training available to Saudi English teachers and reviews the changes that English-teacher-preparation programs have undergone over the years. Then, a pre-service and in-service teacher-preparation program will be proposed in addition to a continuing professional development program for Saudi EFL teachers. Finally, a number of key issues will be highlighted to ensure the effectiveness of the proposed training program.

Keywords

Continuing professional development program, Modifying the EFL Teacher-Preparation Program, Pre-service and in-service teachers' preparation program, Professional development programs, and Training Saudi English Teachers

References


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But teaching in Saudi Arabia is not just about the chance to save money. Despite some of the negative stereotypes in the West, Saudis are some of the friendliest and hospitable people in the world. I had the pleasure of teaching many wonderful individuals from the KSA as an instructor in Washington DC. Despite the cultural contrast between the West and Saudi Arabia, native-English instructors should not rule out the possibility of working there. It is a country of rich history and extremely hospitable people. If you cannot live without an occasional night out on the town, keep in mind that Bahrain, the Las Vegas of the Middle East, is nearby. Many teachers make it their weekend destination. Currently, English in Saudi Arabia is taught starting from grade six of primary school up to grade three of high school. The rationale for the late learning of English is that its acquisition might interfere with the acquisition of the mother language (Arabic) if taught at an early age. As for university, English is taught at the preparatory year for two semesters, and it is a prerequisite for admission to most Saudi universities. It is also a requirement for completing higher education in some majors in Saudi faculties like medicine, engineering, and nursing, where it is the medium of instruc