

Evaluation of King Abdullah Scholarship Program

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the King Abdullah Scholarship Program. Three research questions were addressed by this study. The questions were how Saudi students perceive the King Abdullah Scholarship Program. Was there a difference between male and female Saudi students regarding their King Abdullah Scholarship Program. Were there differences in Saudi students based on the level of education regarding their King Abdullah Scholarship Program.

Interpretation of the study was subject to the following limitations. The study was limited to Saudi students in Saint Louis University and analyzed king Abdullah scholarship program. The study was limited to only Saudi students in Fall 2012. There were 46 Saudi students in the different gender and educational levels.

The survey had 25 questioners about the Saudi student experiences with this program. The survey consisted of three sections. There were quality program, service and student needs. For the quality program, the king Abdullah scholarship program should promote partnerships with Saudi and American universities. It should help prepare students for their new job and to be part of a knowledge-based economy. To enhance the quality of service from SACM, the overall quality of telephone support should be improved. The staff must be effective in the service they provide. The time required to resolve issues must be reasonable. The quality of service should be improved. To improve the students' skill, this scholarship monthly stipend should be adequate for students need. This program should not only be for graduate students but also for undergraduate students. This program must help students to find good jobs when they complete their program. Since all the data above showed only a 0.05, there was not a significant difference in evaluation of king Abdullah scholarship program between male and female Saudi students, and between the overall educational levels.

Keywords: king Abdullah -scholarship program- Saudi Arabia

Introduction

This study has described a study survey focusing on Saudi students perceptions regarding the evaluation of King Abdullah scholarship program. Numerous researchers (Almoteri, 2009; Alzahrani, 2008; Alrasheed, 2002) have stated that the higher education is considered the main pillar of education all over the world. It is regardless of what the nation is studying. The higher education is majorly progressing and contributing in the basic and higher education overseas; therefore, it has always been given a special care and attention.

The history of higher education in Saudi Arabia has begun with small discussion groups who worked under the trees or in the mosques. They have now been transformed into large institutions with the most modern equipment and tools. This change has given Saudi citizens a chance to get education in a number of different areas of studies at different universities in different countries. Having utilized these higher educational opportunities, the qualified individuals will be able to participate excitedly in building the Saudi nation. This increased production of qualified individuals is an important accomplishment of the Ministry of Higher Education. These achievements have not only most positively impacted Saudi Arabia but also the international community.

With that said, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has believed in the importance of education in all areas. Higher education is one of the Saudi Government policies that have been given a crucial value because of its importance. The higher education in Saudi Arabia was instituted not that long ago. The patterns and procedures of these educational systems have been adopted in accordance with Islamic systems, traditions, and customs. The Ministry of Education was created in 1975, and it was renamed Ministry of Higher Education later with the concept of dealing exclusively with higher education. The Ministry of Higher Education has four responsibilities. First, it promotes the establishment of higher education institutions. Second, it allows universities and colleges to educate in Saudi Arabia. It also raises the level of communication and coordination between universities and other ministries. Finally, it represents its government through all educational and cultural affairs all over the world (Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia, 2009).

King Abdullah Foreign Scholarship Program provides the means to attend the best universities worldwide for further studies that lead to degrees such as graduate, post graduate, doctorate, and medical fellowships. Academic scholarships are given on the basis of the requirements of government ministries, national corporations and the private sector. The selection for the scholarships also aims to fulfill the requirements of not only the industrial cities, but also the work markets region by region across the kingdom. Moreover, it focuses the need of the teaching staff in the universities across KSA. The Program is providing qualified Saudi youth to take an active role in the development of all fields of government and private sectors. It has been actively producing qualified Saudi human resource worldwide in all spheres, e.g., the competitive work market, academic

research, and public and private sectors (Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia, 2009).

Understanding the influence of the students' perceptions of their educational studies has been a growing body of research in the United States. Adding a study to investigate this concept in Saudi Arabia provided research regarding a multicultural approach.

Review of the literature

Educational development in the twenty-first century faces numerous challenges. The world is becoming extremely interconnected and global competition in the workplace has led to call for higher standards in educational development. As a country with large potential and vast resources, Saudi Arabia needs to be prepared for the new challenges in education. To meet these challenges, King Abdullah has initiated a scholarship program for the development of the Kingdom. This is how the King Abdullah Scholarship Program came into being (Alrashed, 2002).

King Abdullah Scholarship Program was established in 2005 in order to sponsor highly qualified Saudi students to help them continue their studies at different universities around the world. Scholarship candidates must meet the high level of academic standards set by the Ministry of Higher Education. Upon acceptance into the program, the students are sent to more than 21 different countries to pursue their undergraduate and graduate studies in a variety of academic fields. So far, tens of thousands of Saudi students have already been awarded scholarships through the program to study in various parts of the globe (Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia, 2009).

Alomar (2011) reported that King Abdullah program has many characteristics. They are as follow:

1. It provides financial and academic supervision.
2. It is oriented toward many counties.
3. The U.S has the largest share of students.
4. It is geared toward all fields such as medicine, engineering, science, math, and computers.
5. It includes all levels of degree.

According to Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia (2009), the goal of King Abdullah scholarship program is to:

1. Sponsor qualified Saudis for study in the best universities around the world.
2. Bring a high level of academic and professional standards in the kingdom through the foreign scholarship program.
3. Exchange scientific, educational and cultural experience with countries worldwide.
4. Build up qualified and professional Saudi staff in the work environment.
5. Raise and develop the level of professionalism among Saudis.

According to Alomar (2011) goals of King Abdullah program are to enable Saudis to attain knowledge and intellectual development not only through academically but also through experience. Where there is learning of the customs and lifestyles of the host country, the cultural exchange will by default bring patriotic commitment in our citizens. The knowledge and experience Saudi students get through this program are not only valuable but indeed necessary for the development of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

King Abdullah Foreign Scholarship Program provides the means to attend the best universities worldwide for further studies that lead to degrees such as graduate, post graduate, doctorate, and medical fellowships. Academic scholarships are given on the basis of the requirements of government ministries, national corporations and the private sector. The selection for the scholarships also aims to fulfill the requirements of not only the industrial cities, but also the work markets region by region across the kingdom. Moreover, it focuses the need of the teaching staff in the universities across KSA. The Program is providing qualified Saudi youth to take an active role in the development of all fields of government and private sectors. It has been actively producing qualified Saudi human resource worldwide in all spheres, e.g., the competitive work market, academic research, and public and private sectors (Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia, 2009). The king Abdullah scholarship program offers many life changing opportunities for the students. For example, they are given, a monthly stipend, tuition fees, and cost of attending conferences, seminars, workshops, travel tickets, and medical insurance.

More specifically, according to Alomar (2011), the scholarship students' benefits under the program are:

1. Monthly stipend for the student, spouse, and children.
2. Full tuition coverage.
3. Full medical and dental coverage.
4. Annual round trip airline tickets for the students and their families.
5. Other benefits and rewards (High GPA rewards, scientific materials allowance, etc).

Murray (2011) reported that even though most Saudi students studying in the United States are under the king Abdullah Scholarship Program which grants students a full scholarship provided by the Saudi government, not all students under this program are required to work for the Saudi government after the completion of their

degrees.

The Saudi Arabia Culture Mission (SACM), to the United States, is one of the specialized agencies created by the Saudi government in 1951 to administer programs and policies to meet the educational and cultural needs of Saudis who are studying in the United States. The first (SACM) to the United States was established in 1951 to look after the first group of Saudi students who came officially to study in the U.S. The Mission conducted its business from the (SACM) to the United Nations in New York. In 1956, the mission moved to an independent office in New York under the name of "Saudi Culture Office in America". It looked after the welfare of 48 students at that time (Saudi Arabia Culture Mission, 2006).

Since 1988 the (SACM) has undergone constant modifications in its organizational structure for excellence and continued to integrate modern informational technology into its office procedures to meet the challenges of providing fast, efficient, reliable support and services to the Saudi students. According to Saudi Arabia Culture Mission (2006) the (SACM) implements Saudi national educational and training policies to provide Saudi Arabia with qualified individuals capable of achieving the country's goals in progress and development. They strive to provide Saudi students with the best possible educational opportunities at the best educational institutions in the United States.

Quality indicator

1. The program helps students to be successful in their academics.
2. The program prepares students to be part of a knowledge-based economy.
3. The program provides Saudi students positive exposure of American culture.
4. The program enables students to gain good experiences which will in result benefit the country when they return to Saudi Arabia.
5. The Scholarship program enables students to start a good career after completion the program.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the King Abdullah Scholarship Program. The program essentially focuses on special issues which are turned into goals such as:

1. Finding out if students liked this program and finding it useful and interesting for them.
2. Positively effecting students learning.
3. Discovering whether this program has high quality in content such as knowledge, goals, and activities.
4. Resolving some problems which students face during their studies in the United States.

Study questions

Three research questions were addressed by the study.

1. How do Saudi students perceive the King Abdullah Scholarship Program?
2. Is there a difference between male and female Saudi students regarding their King Abdullah Scholarship Program?
3. Are there differences in Saudi students based on the level of education regarding their King Abdullah Scholarship Program?

Limitation of the study

Interpretation of the study is subject to the following limitations:

1. The study was limited to Saudi students in Saint Louis University; therefore the findings did not describe other Saudi students who were studying elsewhere.
2. The study analyzed King Abdullah scholarship program; therefore the findings were based on perceptions.
3. The study was limited to only fall 2012 Saudi students. The findings did not describe other students.

Definition of the study

Important terms are defined for the purpose of clarity in this section.

Evaluation: is a structured process to determine if a program produced the intended outcome.

King Abdullah program: King Abdullah Foreign Scholarship Program provides all kind of means to enable students to attend the best universities worldwide to carryout higher studies that lead to bachelors, masters and doctorate.

Data collection

In order to obtain data, the investigator was sent out a survey for each Saudi student in Saint Louis University. In this survey, the investigator asked the students to review and complete it. The evaluation of king Abdullah scholarship program questionnaires were directed to all Saudi students in Saint Louis University. These questionnaires had a five point Likert-scale-response with five scales, e.g., strongly agree, agree, disagree,

strongly disagree, and no opinion. The students were asked to provide answers about their gender and their current highest educational level. According to Fitzpatrick and others (2011) the data was collected from the students in several ways:

1. Random Sampling was to avoid bias.
2. There were two different ways to collect the survey data. Either they were face-to-face delivery of the survey to the students or electronically submitted surveys.

Sample

This survey instrument was distributed to all 54 Saudi students at the Saint Louis University. I received 46 surveys which were 85.18 percent of the total amount of Saudi students.

Table 1. Overall statistics including the number of students and percentage of Saudi students who answered the survey by gender

Gender	Distributed		Returned		Percent out of returned
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	
Male	28	51.81	26	56.52	92.85
Female	26	48.14	20	43.48	76.92
Total	54	100	46	100	85.18

Table 1 illustrates the number of gender and percentages for Saudi students who answered the question about King Abdullah Scholarship Program. There were 26 male students which were 56.52 percent of the total amount of Saudi students. On the other hand, there were 20 female students which were 43.48 % of the total amount of Saudi students.

Table 2. Overall statistics including the number of students and percentage of Saudi students who answered the survey by the level of education

Level of Education	Frequency	Percent
Undergraduate	26	56.52
Graduate	20	43.48
Total	46	100

Table 2 shows the number of the level of education and percentages for Saudi students who answered the question about King Abdullah Scholarship Program. There were 26 undergraduate students which were 56.52 percent of the total amount of Saudi students. On the other hand, there were 20 graduate students which were 43.48 % of the total amount of Saudi students.

Data analysis

The investigator thoroughly analyzed the data collected from the surveys. By analyzing the data the investigator was able to gain insight on how the demographic information, if at all, affected the answers supplied by the students utilized in the survey. The investigator used frequency measures of mean and percentage.

This section presents the findings of the analysis related to the questions and answers based on the data collected. Some statistic tables were used to explain the analysis of outcome and were supported in the answer to the questions. For analysis of collected data, averages and percentages were used to find the number of students who share in all statements. To support the answer, the researcher reported the main response, the standard deviation and rank for each of the three evaluation constructs studied and the overall total for each of it.

Question #1: How do Saudi students perceive the King Abdullah Scholarship Program?

For answer this question, averages and percentages were used to find the number of students who share in all statements.

Table 3. Overall average and percentage of Saudi students who answer the questions about the evaluation king Abdullah scholarship program

N	Content	Mean	%	N=46
1.	Quality program: This program goal is clear.	3.41	85.25	46
2.	Quality program: This program helps students to be successful in their academics.	3.43	85.75	46
3.	Quality program: This program promotes partnerships with Saudi and American universities.	2.96	74.00	46
4.	Quality program: This program prepares students to be part of a knowledge-based economy.	2.85	71.25	46
5.	Quality program: This program helps prepare students for their new job.	2.91	72.75	46
6.	Quality program: This program needs to continue.	3.30	82.50	46
7.	Quality program: This program provides positive exposure of American culture.	3.17	79.25	46
8.	Quality program: This program exposes Saudi students to one of the best educational systems in the world.	2.89	72.25	46
9.	Quality program: This program gives students good experiences which will benefit them when they return to Saudi Arabia.	3.43	85.75	46
10.	Quality program: This program provides knowledge for the development of Saudi Arabia.	3.02	75.50	46
11.	Quality program: This program allows Saudi students to be real ambassadors.	2.57	64.25	46
12.	Quality service: The quality of service is good.	2.09	52.25	46
13.	Quality service: The service provided meets students' needs.	2.20	55.00	46
14.	Quality service: The staffs were courteous while providing service.	2.13	53.25	46
15.	Quality service: The staffs were effective in the service they provided.	1.96	49.00	46
16.	Quality service: The overall quality of telephone support is good.	1.61	40.25	46
17.	Quality service: The overall quality of online support is good.	2.15	53.75	46
18.	Quality service: The time required to resolve issues is reasonable.	1.91	47.75	46
19.	Student needs: This Scholarship program monthly stipend is adequate for students need.	2.72	68.00	46
20.	Student needs: This Scholarship program should be only for graduate students.	1.78	44.50	46
21.	Student needs: This Scholarship program provides Saudi students adequate information before they came.	2.24	56.00	46
22.	Student needs: This Scholarship program adequately tested students' proficiency in English before they came.	2.04	51.00	46
23.	Student needs: This Scholarship program provides students enough time to prepare for and pass the TOEFL exam.	2.28	57.00	46
24.	Student needs: This Scholarship program adequately supports students in the goal of getting the degrees.	2.83	70.75	46
25.	Student needs: This Scholarship program helps students to find a good job when they complete their program.	1.70	42.50	46

Table 3 illustrates the overall averages and percentages for students who are studying in Saint Louis universities. This data evaluates the king Abdullah Scholarship Program. The highest above 3.00 averages within the percentages were as follow:

1. Question number 2 about the quality of the program, which asked whether this program helps students to be successful in their academics, had a 3.43 average which was 85.75%.
2. Question number 9 about the quality of the program, which asked whether this program gives students good experiences which will benefit them when they return to Saudi Arabia, had a 3.43 average which was 85.75%.
3. Question number 1 about the quality of the program, which asked whether this program goal is clear, had a 3.41 average which was 85.25%.
4. Question number 6 about the quality of the program, which asked whether this program needs to

continue, had a 3.30 average which was 82.50%.

5. Question number 7 about the quality of the program, which asked about this program provides positive exposure of American culture, had 3.17 averages which was 79.25%.
6. Question number 10 about the quality of the program, which asked whether this program provides knowledge for the development of Saudi Arabia, had a 3.02 average which was 75.50%.

On the other hand the researcher found that the lowest four averages were less than 2.00 and the percentages of those were as follows:

1. Question number 5 about the quality of the service from SACM, which asked whether the overall quality of telephone support is good, if it were 1.61 which was 40.25%. The reason for this issue was that each staff had many students. Also, they liked to work with e-governance or by e-mail. Form my experience; they preferred the e-mail more than the telephone. The chart shows us the answer from the students by gender. The first one is by male students and the second chart is by female students.
2. Question number 7 about the quality of student needs, which asked whether this program helps students to find a good job when they completed their program, had a 1.70 which was 42.50%.
3. Question number 2 about the quality of student needs, which asked whether this program should only for graduate students, had a 1.78 which was 44.50%.The chart shows the answer from the students by level of education. The first chart shows undergraduate students a majority of who strongly agreed and the second chart shows graduate students a majority of whom agreed.
4. Question number 7 about the quality of service, which asked whether the time required resolving issues is reasonable, had a 1.91 which was 47.75%.
5. Question number 4 was about the quality of service, which asked whether the staff was effective in the service they provided, had a 1.96 which was 49.00%.

Table 4. Average and percentage of Saudi students who answer the questions about the quality program

N	Quality Program	Mean	%	N=46
1.	This program goal is clear.	3.41	85.25	46
2.	This program helps students to be successful in their academics.	3.43	85.75	46
3.	This program promotes partnerships with Saudi and American universities.	2.96	74.00	46
4.	This program prepares students to be part of a knowledge-based economy.	2.85	71.25	46
5.	This program helps prepare students for their new job.	2.91	72.75	46
6.	This program needs to continue.	3.30	82.5	46
7.	This program provides positive exposure of American culture.	3.17	79.25	46
8.	This program exposes Saudi students to one of the best educational systems in the world.	2.89	72.25	46
9.	This program gives students good experiences which will benefit them when they return to Saudi Arabia.	3.43	85.75	46
10.	This program provides knowledge for the development of Saudi Arabia.	3.02	75.50	46
11.	This program allows Saudi students to be real ambassadors.	2.57	64.25	46
Overall		3.08	77.13	

Table 4 illustrates the averages and percentages for students who are studying in Saint Louis universities. This data refers to quality of the king Abdullah Scholarship Program. The overall average of the quality program was 3.08 which were 77.13%. The highest average, 3.43, was from question number two and number nine, which was 85.75%. Question number two asked whether this program helps students to be successful in their academics. Question number nine asked whether this program gives students good experiences which will benefit them when they return to Saudi Arabia. On the other hand, the researcher found that the 3.41 average which was 85.22% refers to question number one, which asked whether this program goal is clear.

Table 5. Average and percentage of Saudi students who answer the questions about the Quality of service from SACM

N	Quality of service from SACM	Mean	%	N=46
1.	The quality of service is good.	2.09	52.25	46
2.	The service provided meets students' needs.	2.20	55.00	46
3.	The staffs were courteous while providing service.	2.13	53.25	46
4.	The staffs were effective in the service they provided.	1.96	49.00	46
5.	The overall quality of telephone support is good.	1.61	40.25	46
6.	The overall quality of online support is good.	2.15	53.75	46
7.	The time required to resolve issues is reasonable.	1.91	47.75	46
Overall		2.00	50.17	

Table 5 shows the averages and percentages of students who were studying at Saint Louis universities. The overall average of the quality service from SACM was 2.00 which were 50.17%. That means the quality was very low and they need to improve their service skills. The highest average, 2.20, was from question number two, which was 85.75%. Question number two asked whether the service provided meets students' needs. 2.13 on average which was 53.25% of students responded refers to question number 3 which asked whether the staff were courteous while providing service. On the other hand researcher found that 1.61 averages which were 49.00 percent refer to question number 5 which asked whether the overall quality of telephone support is good.

Table 6. Average and percentage of Saudi students who answer the questions about the quality of students needs

N	Quality of students Needs	Mean	%	N=46
1.	This Scholarship program monthly stipend is adequate for students need.	2.72	68.00	46
2.	This Scholarship program should be only for graduate students.	1.78	44.50	46
3.	This Scholarship program provides Saudi students adequate information before they came.	2.24	56.00	46
4.	This Scholarship program adequately tested students' proficiency in English before they came.	2.04	51.00	46
5.	This Scholarship program provides students enough time to prepare for and pass the TOEFL exam.	2.28	57.00	46
6.	This Scholarship program adequately supports students in the goal of getting the degrees.	2.83	70.75	46
7.	This Scholarship program helps students to find a good job when they complete their program.	1.70	42.50	46
Overall		2.22	55.67	

Table 6 illustrates the averages and percentages for students who were studying in Saint Louis universities. This data refers to question about the student needs of King Abdullah Scholarship Program. The overall average of the student-need was 2.22 which were 55.67%. The highest average, 2.83, was question number 6 which asked whether this Scholarship program adequately supports students in the goal of getting the degrees, which was 70.75%. On the other hand, the researcher found that 1.70 averages which were 42.50% refer to question number 7 which asked whether this Scholarship program helps students to find a good job when they complete their program.

Question #2: Is there a difference in perception between male and female Saudi students about King Abdullah Scholarship Program?

To support this answer the researcher used an independent samples t-test which determined if there were any differences between groups on the three evaluation constructs. The researcher reported descriptive statistics for each group (means, standard deviation), t-value, significance level, and effect size (eta squared).

Table 7. t test to know the significant difference between male and female who answered the overall standard about evaluation of king Abdullah scholarship program for each group

	Independent Samples Test	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
QOP	Equal variances assumed	.90	.765	.754	44	.455	.98462	1.30645
	Equal variances not assumed			.740	37.737	.464	.98462	1.30645
QOS	Equal variances assumed	.271	.606	.633	44	.530	.87308	1.37859
	Equal variances not assumed			.639	42.214	.526	.87308	1.36694
QOSN	Equal variances assumed	4.800	.034	-.721	44	.475	-.90769	1.25855
	Equal variances not assumed			-.751	43.917	.457	-.90769	1.20875
TOTAL	Equal variances assumed	1.073	.306	.337	44	.738	.95000	2.81911
	Equal variances not assumed			.340	42.086	.736	.95000	2.79809

Since all the data above showed only a 0.05, there was not a significant difference in evaluation of King Abdullah scholarship program between male and female Saudi students.

Question #3: Are there differences in perception among Saudi students based on the level of education about King Abdullah Scholarship Program?

To support this answer the researcher used an independent sample of t-test which determined if there were any differences between groups on the three evaluation constructs. The researcher reported descriptive statistics for each group (mean, standard deviation), t-value, significance level, and effect size (eta squared).

Table 8. t test to know the significant difference between the overall of educational level who answered the overall standard about evaluation of king Abdullah scholarship program for each group

		Independent Samples Test						
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
QOP	Equal variances assumed	1.537	.222	-1.582	44	.121	-2.02308	1.27899
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.644	43.960	.107	-2.02308	1.23040
QOS	Equal variances assumed	.172	.680	-1.043	44	.303	-1.42692	1.36805
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.031	39.066	.309	-1.42692	1.38416
QOSN	Equal variances assumed	.030	.863	-1.524	44	.135	-1.88077	1.23380
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.504	38.8775	.141	-1.88077	1.25035
TOTAL	Equal variances assumed	.140	.710	-1.970	44	.055	-5.33077	2.70593
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.953	39.589	.058	-5.33077	2.72969

Since all the data above showed only a 0.05, there was not a significant difference in evaluation of king Abdullah scholarship program between the overall educational levels.

Calculation and recommendation

This study examined the King Abdullah Scholarship Program Saudi students in graduate and undergraduate at Saint Louis universities. Over 46 students responded in the survey with opinions. After collecting the data, the averages and percentages were used to create a summary to compare students. Through this study it was found different scores for students who attended at Saint Louis universities. The survey had 25 statements about Saudi student experiences about this program. The survey consisted of three sections that were about quality of the program, service, and student needs used in the program. The results received from the study were different.

Some Saudi students who wrote comments in the survey suggested that Saudi students need to learn enough information about American culture and likewise explain their culture to American people. They also suggested that they must be helped in finding a job after the completion of the program. For the quality of service, it was suggested that students must be provided a chance to evaluate it every year to get the higher quality in the service. Most students agree that service program has both positive and negative effects on students' achievement. They suggested that SACM should find the best English schools across United States, and if possible, do a partnership in the programs with them.

The king Abdullah scholarship program should offer a high level of quality in the program through best service to focus the needs of the students. For quality program, upon asking whether or not the goal of the program was vivid and clear, only one student among others strongly disagreed. Dissatisfaction was shown by a single student when asked whether or not the scholarship program helps students to be successful in their academics. Also, one Saudi student strongly disagreed that the program promotes partnerships with Saudi and American universities. One strong disagreement and two disagreements were shown by Saudi Students when asked that whether or not the program is supposed to be continued. With the exception of five students, the rest of the other Saudi students strongly agreed that this program provides positive exposure of American culture. With the exception of two strong and one simple disagreement, most Saudi students strongly agreed that the program provides students a chance to gain good experience that will benefit them one way or another when they return to Saudi Arabia. Having seen the above suggestions, it is recommended that the King Abdullah scholarship program should promote partnerships with Saudi and American universities. Moreover, in order to be a part of a knowledge-based economy, it should help prepare students for the job market.

Regarding some features related the service quality of the program; most of the Saudi students were not satisfied. Only five out of forty six students strongly agreed when asked whether the quality of service is good. Also, there were few students who strongly whether they were agreed that the service program meets students' needs. Only one student strongly agreed that the overall quality of telephone support was good. Most of the students

disagreed that the time required to resolve issues was reasonable saved two of them. To enhance the quality of service from SACM, the overall quality of telephone support should be at par of the expectation. The staff must be prompt and effective in service providing. The time required to resolve issues must be reasonable. The quality of service should be excellent.

Some Saudi students didn't show their satisfactions when asked if the monthly stipend is enough for the student's needs. A disagreement with the average of 2.72 came up when asked whether the monthly stipend was adequate for students' need under the Scholarship program. Only four out of forty six students strongly agreed when asked that whether the scholarship program should only specifically be for graduate students. Few students strongly agreed when asked whether the Scholarship program adequately supports students in the goal of getting the degrees, except one, who strongly disagreed. In order to improve the students' skill, this scholarship monthly stipend should be adequate for students' need. The program should not be only for graduate students but for undergraduate students as well. Also, the program must help students to find a good job when they complete their programs.

To expand on the current review of data related to the study of King Abdullah scholarship program, the researcher recommends to:

- 1- Research the perception of students' parents about the evaluation of this program.
- 2- Research the leadership's perception of Ministry of Higher Education regarding the evaluation this program.
- 3- Research the perception about the evaluation of this program not only across US but anywhere across the globe where the Saudi students are undertaking their studies under this program.
- 4- Expand and utilize other research based survey instruments that can identify the evaluation's perception of this program and compare the result of the findings of this study.

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