

The First Omani Woman with PHD **Dr. Nada Al Ajami**

My Family Stability is Behind My Career Success

Dr. Nada Al Ajami, the first Omani woman obtaining a PHD degree in English Literature, works as a Teacher Assistant in the English Department at the Faculty of Literature and Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University. She got her masters degree from University of Glasgow, Scotland and her doctorate degree from University of Melbourne, Australia. She also works in the field of women training.

In her interview with “Bint Al Khaleej” magazine, she stresses the importance of teaching in encouraging the youth to invest their energy and power in constructive their skills. In spite of her constant work, her family comes first, “I would have never achieved my professional success without my Family Stability” she says.

Spirituality Achieves Life Balance

Dr. Nada Al Ajami chose teaching because she loves giving and working with young people who are considered the resource of energy generating work. “After graduation I decided to proceed my studies in order to be able to join the academic staff at Sultan Qaboos University with an objective to specially work with young people whom I believe they can build a society full of human resources. I believe that all they need is motivation, encouragement and direction by their teachers and parents so they can invest their energy and power in constructive projects that contribute to society development”, Dr. Nada says.

Reading and Teaching

On another hand, Dr. Nada refuses to say that teaching “takes from you” but instead she considers it “a profession that needs giving”. She believes that the teacher should have two skills in order to succeed in his/her great mission; first: time management and second: creativity in teaching and dealing with students”.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Nada loves to read because, in her opinion, it is the fuel that provides people with information and feeds the mind and soul. Her favourite books are; “The New Earth” by Eckhart Tolle, “The Key” by Joe Vitale and “The Greatness Guide” by Robin Sharma.

Women Development

In addition to Dr. Nada’s academic success, she is also a leader in women training. She is an accredited lecturer in the Women Development program and she lectures in the most powerful and prominent program (Springboard), which she says is a woman-tailored program based on self development and that obtained many global rewards. The British Council started this program in the Arab region in 2004 and was introduced to Muscat in 2009. The program focuses on developing and enabling women to obtain self respect, influence

others and invest their capabilities on both the professional and personal levels. Women who completed this program became more confident and enthusiastic, and more capable to improve work skills and achieve life balance.

Dr. Nada joined many programs on self development, time management, successful leadership and emotional intelligence. She believes that such programs significantly promote women regardless of their academic background. Dr. Nada seeks now to establish a global centre in the areas of self development and training.

International Participations

Dr. Nada participated in many international events and says “I participated with a paper in a conference held in University of Vienna, Austria in June 2009 where I highlighted the concept of Spirituality in English Literature and the importance of Spirituality to find life balance. In addition, I constantly participate in the annual conference for the English Writer Thomas Hardy who was the subject of my dissertation. I look forward to presenting a new paper about short stories in English literature next June in York city, Toronto, Canada.”

My Success and Family

When asked about her family in relation to her work and life she said “I set my priorities and goals every week. I trained myself to be committed to time and to make use of every minute and my family comes among the main priorities of my life. In my view, there are four interrelated aspects of life (Work, World and Society, relationships and Ego). I always share my successes and challenges with my family and, on the other hand, I believe that my family’s stability is the reason behind my career’s success.

Dr. Nada considers the birth to her two daughters an important phase of her life. She gave birth to her first daughter in 1995 when she was in her second year at university and her other daughter in 2006 while she was finishing her dissertation.

The Arab Woman

Dr. Nada follows the steps of the famous Oprah Winfrey whom under rough circumstances, made her way to the top. She says that Oprah did not stop after achieving success; however, she continued to help people and support them to succeed.

Dr. Nada stresses the Arab women success in making achievements in social, economic and political areas. She is also proud of women’s recent achievements stemming from the Sultanate’s interest in the role of women in the society. The Omani woman has become an ambassador and minister and she received attention regarding education which is clear in holding Omani Women’s Symposium and celebrating Omani Woman’s Day on October 17 each year.