

The National Law of Reading 2016 A legislative step towards achieving sustainable knowledge development In the United Arab Emirates

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Abstract:

Given the current acceleration of knowledge, the United Arab Emirates was able to achieve a civilized and pro-active move by publishing the "National Law of Reading" in 2016, on the grounds that "there is no economy of knowledge without knowledge societies, no strategy can be built without the construction of a generation..... And we can not create a tolerant society United families community and cultural awareness and a well-established national identity ... without culture, Reading, and knowledge ».

This Law represents an enlightenment Project of Great significance that gives the Arab citizen, not the UAE the opportunity to practice reading at its multiple levels according to a legislative framework, so that it is the first of its kind in the Arabic region , which aims to establish the behavior and culture of reading among all individuals in society in a sustainable way, to create lifelong learning, to support national intellectual production, to build a knowledge society and to ensure the sustainability of all government efforts to consolidate reading in the state through the development of specific legislative frameworks, executive programs and government responsibilities, in order to allow the return of reading in force among the members of the community and to ensure the sustainability of the process of development and prosperity, and thereby transforming a cultural value as an integrated government project, so that it is the responsibility of the relevant institutions for the implementation of the programs to make the law a reality through the mechanisms of implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

In this research, we will try to read and analyze this law and relate it to the possibility of achieving sustainable knowledge development in the context of legislative organization.

Keywords: Reading, National Law of Reading, sustainable knowledge development , Legislation, United Arab Emirates

Introduction:

In the pursuit of enhancing societal culture and protect the contents of the national identity, we continue to affirm that reading is the basis for achieving such objectives, in addition of being an intellectual tool with a paramount and vital role in the acquisition, exchange, production and development of knowledge, which will enable us to comprehend the requirements of this society but also enables us to cultivate the capacities that are

essential conditions for survival and positive interaction with the society of knowledge, starting from the basic cognitive abilities necessary for education and continuous or sustainable learning, which enable us to decipher the initial symbols of knowledge, and ending with the more intricate cognitive abilities and skills; in other words, reading is the fundamental means to achieve sustainable knowledge development, as it is a tool of daily life in contemporary society, and a pathway to enhancing communicative capacities in the realms of innovation, creativity, and advancement.

However, the observer of the reality of our Arab societies will retain a picture of backwardness and lagging behind; therefore, Arab society is in dire need of nurturing a generation that is creative, innovative, educated, intellectual aware of the developments of the world we live in, well-versed in its best ideas and latest theories in all sectors, capable of achieving developmental leaps, and enhancing competitiveness, through a clear approach, continuous effort, and concerted efforts between the parties responsible for it.

If reading is considered as the process of retrieving stored verbal or mental information, whether that information is in the form of letters, symbols, or even images, it has become, through the National Law of Reading, the basis of education and its primary means, it is the pathway to connect with the world of others, and acquire their knowledge and experiences; moreover, it is not an end in itself, but rather the primary means for learning, knowledge, and positive interaction.

The Law of Reading has reached its pinnacle and perfected form, within a mandatory legislative template and meticulously selected and deliberated executive programs, it has outlined governmental responsibilities, reinforced by a national plan and the formation of follow-up and supervision committees to oversee the implementation of the provisions and articles of this law, aiming for the integration of literacy in one crucible, considering that the consolidation of reading in new generations is a long-term work or investment, with profound implications. The government alone cannot effect change without the contribution of families, as well as all social institutions, including governmental, private, associations, and civil society organizations, i.e. the importance of concerted efforts towards continuous building of a society of knowledge, through the cultivation of personality values such as literacy and culture at the utmost importance at the level of the individual, the family and societal levels as a whole.

Objectives of the study:

This legislative model, which has established mechanisms for its activation and implementation, so that reading becomes a way of life embraced by all the population in all its segments and levels, which came to create a comprehensive intellectual space that encompasses everyone, working towards expanding this space to include all segments of society, each according to their abilities, capabilities and specializations. And with all its parameters, it establishes a sustainable state of intellectual and reading activity in society. which should serve as a model to be emulated in the Arab region prompting the development of strategic plans as a roadmap for building an enlightened civilized reading society... aware of the changes of the times... a forward-thinking community, receptive to all cultures and open to all developments, in the long term, these plans aim to instill a culture of reading in the in-self of children, youth, and all groups of society, making it a comprehensive social activity, and involve educational programs that promote reading, as well as educational and familial initiatives that encourage children to read at home, in addition of including programs and competitions for youth to enhance reading activities and establishing them socially and institutionally through annual periodical programs and initiatives organized by all relevant

institutions, which include various sectors, including primarily education, culture, media, health, community development, and human resources, this is to overcome the crisis of reading that threatens the Arab nation culturally, civilizationally, and academically.

This law represents a valuable contribution that can only be generalized as a model experience in various Arab countries which are today in dire need of such motivational and incentive initiatives, especially since reading in the Arab world has a bleak picture, remedying this situation requires serious contemplation towards nurturing a reading-loving intellectual generation capable of initiative, creativity and constructive development, because the concepts of reading and culture are intricately linked to identity and the preservation of civilizational heritage, The interaction between these two concepts culminates in either positive and sustainable knowledge or negative and destructive knowledge for both the individual and society alike.

Therefore, we aim to identify the relationship between reading and sustainable knowledge development, through the National Law of Reading, which represents a system of laws that stimulate sustainable development, strategically evident in a legislative developmental cultural initiative that is the first of its kind in the Arab region, in addition to highlighting the importance of activating the values contained in this law, and transforming the vision therein into a tangible reality through serious and responsible thinking on the part of the State and society together towards productive participation in transforming that vision and its values and goals into a sustainable knowledge work.

The importance of the study:

We still affirm that reading represents the crown of knowledge and its essence and sustainability, and it represents the path that bestows upon us the keys to safe passage to the future society, it is also considered as the basic means that enables us to comprehend the requirements of this society (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, (<http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=74500>), and developing capacities that represent the most important conditions for survival and creative interaction with the of knowledge and the information revolution. Starting from simple cognitive abilities, which enable us to decipher the first basic symbols of knowledge, and ending with more complex cognitive abilities.

The Law of Reading issued by the President of the UAE, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, confirms the UAE's desire to achieve leadership in all fields, this pioneering law in the region will serve as an additional incentive to support efforts aimed at building and developing a generation of future leaders with sufficient knowledge culture enabling them to effectively contribute to preserving the country's achievements and national gains, achieving sustainable development and building a civilizational model to be emulated, especially since reading is the most prominent means of human learning and civilization building, it contributes to expanding knowledge and cultural horizons, unleashing hidden potentials, fostering creativity and innovation, and creating a generation of scientists, thinkers, and discoverers. Given its significant impact on our lives, this law, which the UAE is a pioneer to adopt, will open up vast opportunities to prepare a society capable of meeting the aspirations of its leadership to achieve global excellence in various aspects.

Study Methodology:

This study is considered an analytical theory that relies on the descriptive-documentary method in order to collect data from the previous literature, studies, and scientific references

related to the field of research in order to clarify the relationship between reading and sustainable knowledge development, through the National Law of Reading.

Study Concepts:

- **Reading:** Reading is defined as "the extraction of meaning from printed or written material, or the ability to decode symbols of meaning from written forms. It is also defined as" the assimilation of all that is written and seen by the human eye", making it one of the most important sources of knowledge and knowledge, and the most important means of transferring the ideas of the human mind, which is the attribute that characterizes peoples who seek progress and advancement (Mohamed Kamel Hamad, Nour El Houda, <http://jilrc.com>).

- **National Law of Reading:** His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, issued Federal Law Decree No. 18 on September 26, 2016, regarding reading, which includes 18 articles and is based on seven guiding principles that must be considered, these principles include: Reading stems from the core of Islamic principles and the country's cultural and civilizational heritage; Reading is the main element for acquiring knowledge; Reading promotes intellectual creativity and represents the key element in building a knowledge-based society; Reading is the main factor in developing the national cultural asset; Reading is the fundamental factor in supporting literary and intellectual production; Reading enhances the competitive and productive capabilities of the UAE; Reading is the main gateway to promoting values of tolerance, peace, and coexistence (http://ejustice.gov.ae/downloads/latest_laws2016/unionlaw18_2016.pdf).

- **Sustainable Knowledge Development:** Knowledge sustainability means the long-term realization of knowledge or achieving continuous and ongoing knowledge which of course entails the realization of knowledge in the present and in the future (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, <http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=74500>).

- **Legislation:** It is a set of obligatory general, binding, abstract rules established by the competent authority in the State with the aim of regulating the relations and behavior of individuals in society, issued by the competent authority centralized in the hands of the State, and has a relationship, whether directly or indirectly, with the members of society and which aligns with their needs in development, making it perpetually sustainable and keeping pace with the progress of humanity. Legislation is recorded in an official document in a written form with specific expressions and vocabularies, where its legal rules are formulated in a precise manner, so that these rules appear clear to individuals in society, not stirring any disputes between them, so that each individual knows what his rights and duties are, ensuring security, tranquility, and stability in transactions by referring to its texts when needed (<http://www.startimes.com/f.aspx?t=22601930>).

Study topics:

1. References that were relied upon to support the National Law of Reading:

a. National Policy of Reading (2016):

The National Policy of Reading 2016 is based on 7 main axes, namely: The enactment of a reading law; Launching the National Reading Strategy which includes 30 national initiatives to be implemented by 6 sectors; And launching the National Reading Support Fund

worth 100 million Dirhams (Mehissin, Ines, <http://www.emaratalyout.com/local-section/other/2016-05-03-1.893660>); The fourth axis involves the educational program which is contributed by the Ministry of Education to achieve the goals of the National Policy of Reading, aiming to change educational systems to support reading; Furthermore, there is the health program launched by the Ministry of Health focusing on enhancing children's intellectual capacities and preserving the cognitive abilities of the elderly; Additionally, the media and content program overseen by the National Media Council, responsible for formulating media policies that promote reading along with a national publishing support plan; As for the seventh axis, it encompasses the lifelong reading program initiated by the Ministry of Community Development, which activates the role of volunteering work roles and social responsibility initiatives to support reading.



Fig No. 01: National Policy of Reading in the United Arab Emirates

b. Reading indicators in the UAE:

The most prominent State achievements in the reading processing, materialized in the launch of the Arab Reading Index: (<http://knowledge4all.com/admin/uploads/files/ARI2016/ARI2016Ar.pdf>)

In the years 2015 and 2016, for the first time on the Arab level, an initiative prepared by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) of the Regional Bureau for Arab States, the index revealed that the UAE is among the top 5 Arab countries in literacy, with Lebanon topped the rankings, followed by the Arab Republic of Egypt in second place, then Morocco in third, the UAE in fourth, and finally Jordan in fifth place. The results of the index were derived from a comprehensive field survey, encompassing over 148,000 individuals from all Arab countries, including 5,400 participants from the UAE.

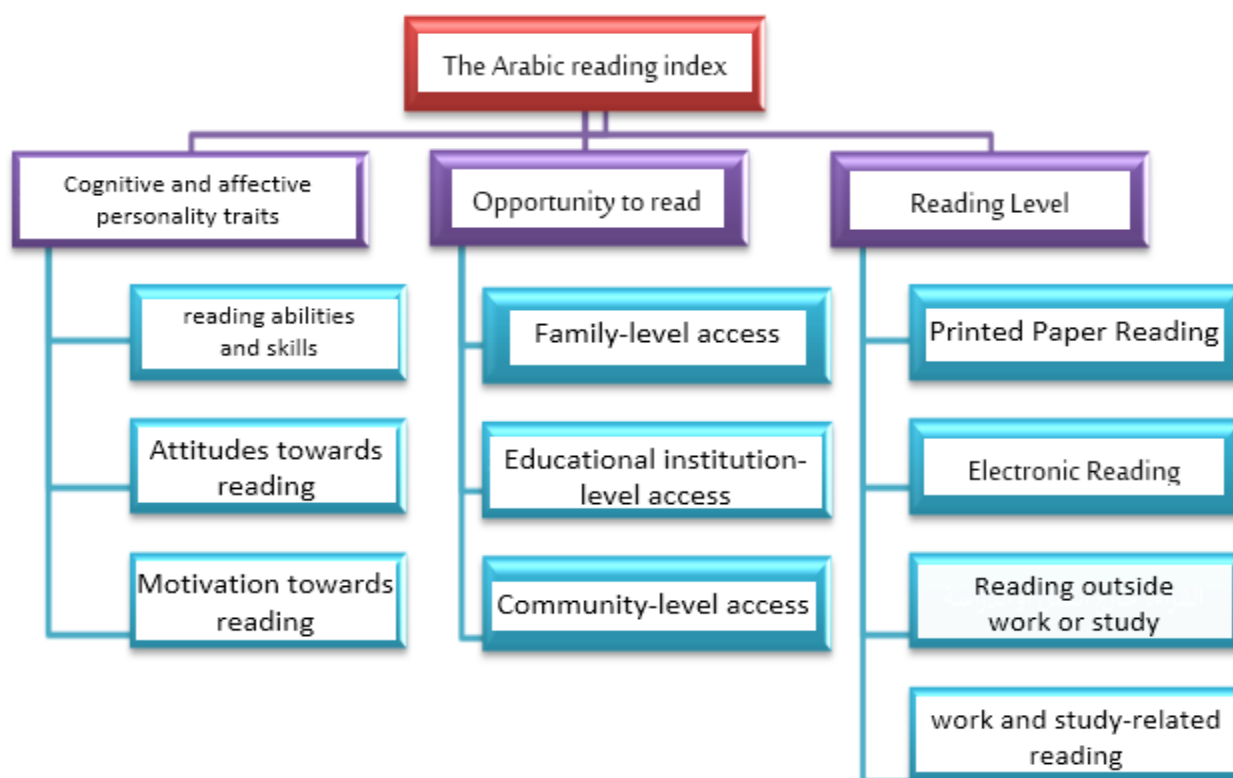


Fig No. 02: The Arabic Reading Index 2016

The UAE recorded the following results (Ibrahim, Mohamed, <http://www.alkhaleej.ae/alkhaleej/page/8ccff376-93f8-4b85-8063-28bd0d1e46dc>) The literacy rate in the country reached 81%. The availability of reading opportunities stands at 84%. (the average opportunity in the family is 88%, the school is 89%, while the societal percentage is estimated at 76%). The measurement of personal characteristics rate is at 80% (with capabilities reaching 93%, motivation towards reading at 80%, and attitudes at 90%). The average number of books read annually in the UAE in the Arabic language was 18%, and in a foreign language 8%, in addition to the number of books outside the scope of study and work. and 15% related to study and 9% to work, while the average reading hours per year outside the scope of study and work amounted to 33 hours, those related to study and work are at 20%, paper documents at 24%, and electronic documents at 28%. Regarding the percentages of attitudes towards reading in the country, the index indicated that 14% of those who expressed positively that reading is their preferred activity, 11% of them are members of a reading club or group, with 81% believing reading is a necessity, and 26% having an account on sites specialized in books and reading, 13% participate in reading competitions, and 86% believe that reading does not end with schooling, with 80% affirming that reading is equally important as studying, 31% regularly follow digital libraries, 24% consider reading a constant practice in life, and 76% respect readers. The percentage of children in the family who read daily is 37%, with 50% expressing that reading holds a significant place in the family, 7% give books as gifts, 37% allocate time for reading, and the average number of books in the home library is 30 books.

The level of literacy in the UAE is recording a significant rise and a continuous increase, which indicates that the factors facilitating reading opportunities are available in the country, however, there remains a pressing need to further enhance this availability at various family,

school and community levels, and this is what the National Law of Reading emphasizes and aims at, as reading is a shared responsibility that requires concerted efforts, effective political will and strong social support.

2. Objectives of the National Law of Reading:

- **Human Capital Development Support:**

Human capital plays a crucial role in serving development worldwide, without exception, as it serves as the cornerstone of any stable and sustainable development that contributes to the strength and progress of nations. The global interest in human capital has increased following the international trend towards globalization, with the increased necessitating qualitative and quantitative accumulation of human capital, so that it is enabling it to creativity development, technological innovation and investment in information. This prompted most of the world's countries to allocate substantial funds for restructuring education and developing its programs with the aim of enhancing the characteristics of human capital and make them suitable and more appropriate with the requirements of sustainable development.

Human capital consists of three basic elements, which are as follows (Ibrahimi, Nadia, 2013, p.5):

- **Competencies:** They encompass a set of knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and conducts derived from essential experiences for practicing a specific profession.
- **Experience and expertise:** These are diverse scientific and practical experiences and expertise acquired through practicing the profession.
- **Knowledge and qualifications:** These are the various accumulated information through training and education.

Human capital is not just numbers of people, but rather individuals with high intellectual, professional and behavioral levels that constitute a strength and a source of wealth for society. Here, one can envision this force in the presence of a model of a developed and advanced human being, characterized by qualitative traits that make him an effective force in various fields. In other words, a human model that possesses firstly intellectual abilities and secondly professional skills.

The UAE ranked second position among the Arab world and 29th globally in the 2016 Human Capital Index published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations within the "E-Government Development and Sustainable Development Index" report (<http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN96407.pdf>), which measures the four sub-indicators as follows:

- **Knowledge is measured by literacy among adults:** as a percentage of individuals aged 15 and above who are able to read and write a simple sentence in their daily lives and understand it.
- **Measured gross enrollment rate:** as the ratio of the total number of students enrolled at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels, regardless of age, as a percentage of the school-age population at that level.
- **Measured Expected years of schooling:** the total number of years of education that a student is expected to obtain in the future, assuming that the possibility of the student being in school at any age equals the age specific to the current enrollment rate.
- **The mean years of schooling provide:** the average number of years of education completed by the adult population in a country aged 25 and above (excluding years spent repeating school years). This reflects the success of efforts aimed to build a broad and diverse range of competencies for the future with a focus on quality and inclusiveness.

- Consolidating the behavior and culture of reading: The national law on literacy, in all its articles aims to affirm the importance of reading, consolidating its cultural significance, and activate societal cooperation to achieve an enlightened and cultured community. to reach a conscious and educated society and make the book accessible to all to make culture and knowledge a way of life. This will be accomplished through providing various literary events that cater to all categories of the public in order to achieve its objectives in consolidating the importance of reading and promoting the behavior and culture of reading as a way of life within society, as the primary and foremost source for acquiring knowledge and various sciences in our lives, as reading opens wide horizons for the individual and contributes to achieving sustainable cognitive development, as it serves as a window of the mind to the field of information, whether humanitarian or technological. A nation that reads is beneficial to its offspring and to the entire world. Our readings open potentialities of the mind and guide us towards paths that enhance our intellectual and cultural awareness. A nation that does not read fails to find solutions to many of its social, economic, and political issues. We have learned that history repeats itself over the course of different eras, indeed, the underdeveloped countries are those that do not prioritize reading or educating their youth and making them aware of its importance, as ignorance spreads and consequent cultural backwardness for these nations increases day by day.

- Establishing Reading Communities: The National Law of Reading aims to form and construct a community of readers to confront all challenges, especially after the Emirati and even Arab society has come across a set of destructive ideas and intentional intellectual sabotage pushing the society to the abyss of civilizational backwardness and intellectual dispersion; however, through genuine and correct reading, acquiring knowledge, science and genuine Islamic culture, all enemies of society can be faced.

One cannot envision the development of a reading community without collaboration and integration of all components of the social development network for all segments of society, we need to cultivate a culture of reading, so that we have a reading society that is aware of all the requirements of life, and possesses the knowledge that qualifies it for leadership, so that reading becomes become a norm in educational institutions, mosques, clubs, homes, all civil society associations, libraries, and cultural centers, all these institutions are supposed to adopt a purposeful project towards reading based on organizing many events, initiatives, celebrations, competitions, and seminars so that we have an effective and influential society for young people, and work to motivate them to read, the focus should be on motivating readers and changing many beliefs and attitudes towards reading, the more the mind seeks knowledge and is aware of its surroundings, the more capable it becomes of intellectual and scientific productivity, leading to the realization of numerous intellectual, scientific, and literary achievements (Assayidi, Hamid, <https://alroya.om/post/181957>). It has become one of our most important duties today to work towards cultivating a generation of creative readers who can engage in discussions and debate, present their ideas consciously and offer solutions to their community's problems based on their sense of responsibility, and possess the ability to research, criticize, analyze, engage in self-learning, comprehend others, and create new knowledge. No nation has ever read and not seized the reins of leadership, as portrayed by the poet Mustafa Sadiq Al-Rafie in his immortal lines:

**"A state armed with swords cannot stand strong * * *
unless it is allied with the state of books."**

- Ensuring the sustainability of governmental efforts: Establishing a culture of reading in the new generations is a long-term work, and its effects are profound, the government alone

cannot make a change without the contribution of families and the involvement of all community actors, including governmental and private institutions, associations, publishers, writers, intellectuals and specialists. The UAE has transitioned over the past decades from a country seeking to eradicate illiteracy to a country seeking for global competitiveness in the technical and scientific fields and this is what justifies its sustainable efforts. And all reading policies and strategies are for a nation-building aim and cultivating an enlightened, conscious, empowered and tolerant society, the objective is to prepare generations capable of achieving developmental leaps and ensuring country's superiority, and the law of reading will institutionalize and sustain these efforts for ensuring their continuity, and make reading an essential part of the work, powers and duties of various governmental entities.

3. Contents of the National Law of Reading:

3.1. National Law of Reading Guidelines:

- Reading stems from the core of Islamic principles and the country's cultural and civilizational heritage.
- Reading is a key element for acquiring knowledge.
- Reading promotes intellectual creativity and represents the key element in building a knowledge-based society.
- Reading represents the main factor in developing the national cultural capital.
- Reading constitutes the main factor in supporting literary and intellectual production.
- Reading enhances the competitive and productive capabilities of the UAE.
- Reading serves as the primary gateway to promoting values of tolerance, peace, and coexistence.

3.2. The right of reading:

When reading is a right that is preserved, promoted, and protected by legislation, this is an unprecedented vision that transforms wishes and aspirations into an established reality and governing laws, and here there is no choice (Al Khaja, Khaled, <http://www.albayan.ae/opinions/articles/2016-11-08-1.2757085>), through this law, reading is no longer a luxury or a secondary individual effort, but rather a societal situation that all State institutions and agencies are mandated to make it the cornerstone of their policies, thus elevating out of the framework of the act, which praises those who did it, while adopting the issues of people with challenges or special needs through specialized centers providing training, rehabilitation, treatment, empowerment and integration for them, and as well as by providing libraries containing books in various languages and technological devices that help enhance the engagement of individuals with challenges in language and reading. So the law has stipulated:

- "Relevant government entities are urged to take all necessary measures to ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn to read as part of the basic education system, and provide appropriate opportunities for all members of society, including people with reading challenges, in order to enhance reading skills and provide reading materials".

3.3. Empowering reading in society:

It is imperative to give utmost importance to the pursuit of knowledge and knowledge and everything related to them, and constantly strive to enable all members of society in their various categories, old and young, male and female, to obtain the knowledge they need to achieve their aspirations and at the same time contribute to the renaissance of their society. The sanctification of science and knowledge and the affirmation of everyone's right to learn

and realize personal self-development are an integral part of the philosophy, upon which the State should be based and which is embodied in this law, on that the law has stipulated:

- The concerned government agencies in the health and education sectors in the UAE are working towards developing the linguistic capabilities of children in the early stages of development and raising awareness among families about the importance of reading for newborns and children.
- The Ministry of Health, Community Development, and the relevant governmental agencies in the healthcare sector provide all children in the country three knowledge kits, distributed within specified timeframes outlined by the ministry or the concerned government agency.
- The concerned government agencies implement necessary programs to enhance reading skills in various community groups, and with special considerations, including individuals facing reading challenges, inmates of correctional facilities and hospitals, elderly individuals and housewives, and encourage them to practice reading in a way that suits their needs.
- The concerned government agencies shall develop appropriate mechanisms for the use of cultural centers, forums and councils in residential neighborhoods.
- The Ministry of Community Development and the and the concerned government agencies in the social development sector promote a culture of intellectual volunteerism by involving various segments of society in promoting reading and participating in reading activities for children, the elderly, patients, and others who are unable to read.
- The Ministry of Economy and the relevant government agencies oblige cafes in commercial centers to provide reading materials in accordance with the number of customers and their interests, in accordance with the standards set by the competent authorities.

3.4. Reading in the educational system:

The educational system has significantly contributed to the decline of people's interest in reading, as it is no secret that to this day educational institutions still utilize reading systems that include literary texts, scientific articles, etc. accompanied by writing workbooks (Majdalawi, Flora, https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/9788951.Flora_Majdalawi_/blog), these systems have not changed for more than half a century, with only the contents of books being altered and their covers being swapped, at a time when it was imperative to develop tools for acquiring reading and writing skills in order to keep pace with the rapid advancements and transformations of our era, as these skills are a means to cultivate self-learning students who avidly seek knowledge and science autonomously. Reading and writing skills thus serve as the fundamental tools for acquiring all other sciences and arts in a professional, sophisticated, contemporary and sustainable manner. So the contents of this law will enable those in charge of educational affairs to pinpoint the root of the issue regarding the declining levels of literacy among learners, and will in formulating an effective strategy to elevate their literacy competency. And in that matter the Law mentions:

- Develop curricula and educational systems that contribute to promote students' reading skills and behavior.
- Requiring private educational institutions to develop their academic curricula in a way that enables students to improve their linguistic abilities.
- Require all educational institutions to provide libraries that cater to the needs and interests of all their affiliated students.
- Establish international standards for evaluating libraries in educational institutions and gradually overseeing their implementation.
- Require all educational institutions to develop an annual plan to promote reading among students and organize activities to reinforce reading behavior.

- Obliging educational institutions to implement programs to develop the skills for employees involved in reading, following the best educational practices in this field.
- Adopting a culture of reading behavior as part of the criteria for evaluating educational institutions.
- Establish the necessary regulations to conduct continuous assessment of linguistic and intellectual abilities of students.
- Inculcate a culture of respect for books and their preservation among students and implement the necessary procedures for reusing, recycling or donating them.

3.5. Reading in the workplace:

The implementation of the National Law of Reading will be dedicated to innovation and excellence initiatives, serving as a catalyst for creative projects, and a stimulus for ideas among employees, and as it will encourage institutions to provide knowledge and books that are difficult for employees to acquire, in addition to that it will encourage specialized reading for employees during official working hours, thus propelling them towards innovation and excellence in their respective fields, as many employees, especially those who have creative ideas and projects, will greatly benefit from this, as specialized reading is one of the keys towards enhancing the knowledge capital among employees. On that the Law says:

- Enable employees to have time for specialized reading in his/her field of work, within their official working hours.
- Take the necessary measures to support reading activities, knowledge sharing, and expertise exchange within the work environment.
- Provide opportunities for employees to access appropriate printed or electronic specialized reading materials.

3.6. Public Libraries:

It is essential to combine the efforts of all governmental entities in order to pay more attention to public libraries, as they are the beacons of knowledge, enlightenment and culture, with the necessity to focus on the young reader to cultivate a generation of literate individuals who recognize the significance of books and its great role in the advancement of nations, for we are the “**Read Nation**” and it is incumbent upon us to be amongst the foremost nations that prioritize reading, as it is the key to progress and development. We therefore stress the importance and imperative establishment of public libraries and develop them in order to promote and strengthen the practice of reading in society as a communal norm and a cultural value among members of the community. About this issue we can read in the Law:

- The concerned government authorities endeavor to provide public libraries or reading facilities in various regions of the country to ensure easy access to them.
- The competent bodies managing public libraries provide the following services free of charge to all members of society and may set appropriate nominal fees for other services:
 - Use of library facilities.
 - Borrowing books.
 - Use of the electronic network and digital information.
- The competent authorities managing public libraries are encouraged to redesign them in an attractive manner as service and entertainment centers through developing their systems, as well as updating and diversifying content to suit the interests of all societal groups of different age categories, in both Arabic and English languages.
- The concerned government agencies motivate the private sector to invest in

establishing libraries and cultural centers by granting it a set of incentives, facilities and suitable land, in accordance with investment priorities and urban planning in different regions of the country.

- The concerned government agencies encourage malls to provide commercial spaces at competitive prices for public library projects in shopping centers.
- The concerned government agencies work to ensure that public libraries are suitable for use by individuals with reading challenges and physical disabilities.
- Authorities responsible for managing public libraries establish standards for accrediting candidates for the position of library attendant and also seek to enhance the capabilities of their employees to meet those standards.
- The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development is responsible for establishing a comprehensive and unified database of public libraries in the country and the books they contain, in addition to libraries affiliated with public institutions and the libraries that meet the conditions are required to register as per the regulations set by the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development.
- The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development aims to establish a national library that represents an intellectual archive to preserve and archive the intellectual production read in the country from damage and loss, making it accessible to the public and future generations.
- National publishers commit to submit three copies of each book published in the country to the National Library for legal deposit purpose, or an electronic copy of any other reading material produced.

3.7. Support the publication and distribution of reading materials:

It is imperative to establish a program to develop the publishing industry and enact policies to enrich Arabic language reading content and produce high-quality intellectual national books, this includes supporting and providing incentives and facilitations for authors, editors, publishers, and printing facilities. The law stipulates that:

- Reading materials in the UAE are treated as a major commodity exempted from any fees or taxes for the purposes of authorship, publication, printing or distribution, including the fees for obtaining the ISBN, in accordance with the conditions and regulations set by the Council of Ministers in this regard. Publishing or distributing any book is not permitted without obtaining this International Standard Book Number (ISBN).
- The National Media Council, the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, along with the Ministry of Economy, undertake the development of the publishing industry in the country and enact policies aimed at enriching the content of Arabic-language reading and producing high-quality and intellectual national books.
- The National Media Council, the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development and the Ministry of Economy shall support and provide incentives and facilities for authors, editors, publishers and printing facilities in the country.
- The Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development elaborates specialized professional development programs for individuals interested to specialize as librarians, publishers, editors, or other activities related to promote reading.
- The Ministry of Education works on introducing and encouraging specialized academic programs in the publishing industry and library management.
- The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development encourages the issuance and publication of reading materials in Arabic by providing support and incentives in the transfer of knowledge from different languages to Arabic.

- The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development provides facilities, advice and support to promote national content outside the country and participate in international exhibitions.
- The relevant authorities commit to organizing and managing exhibitions in the country by providing preferential treatment to national publishing houses when participating or renting exhibition spaces.
- The Ministry of Economy and relevant government agencies work on including the condition of providing a section for locally produced reading materials in selling licenses of bookstores in the country.

3.8. The role of the media:

The media, with its various organs and institutions, is expected to play an essential and effective role in the education and upbringing of all age groups in general and specifically for the stages of childhood and youth; Furthermore, the media has an enlightening role in urging individuals to develop their culture and knowledge and guiding them to the best ways and means to achieve this goal; Therefore, the media has a significant role in raising awareness about the importance of reading and its role in promoting sustainable knowledge and popular awareness, by transforming media institutions into platforms for disseminating knowledge, encouraging reading among individuals, and cultivating it into a societal culture. The law has mandated the following:

- The National Media Council is responsible for developing an integrated media policy to support and encourage reading, and obligating public visual, auditory, and written media outlets to allocate specific programs and spaces suitable for different societal groups to promote reading.
- The National Media Council collaborates with the private sector as a strategic partner to promote reading through direct and implicit messages, and the production of unified media messages to cultivate a sense of community, as reading is an inherent value in Emirati society.

3.9. National Reading Fund:

Nations do not progress without reading, seeking knowledge, and pursuing enlightenment. It is the duty of governments to intellectually elevate their citizens by enhancing the readers' perception, regardless of their educational and cultural levels or age group, and also by supporting various initiatives in accordance with the national plans that were developed to deliver the book to everyone, in their places of gathering and presence, and most importantly it is crucial to provide substantial financial support. The law stipulates the following:

- Establishing a financial fund called the "National Reading Fund" to provide financial support for innovative initiatives that promotes literacy.
- The Council of Ministers shall issue a regulation specifying the fund's capital, funding sources, administration methods, board of directors, method of management and determining the disbursement of funds from it for the purpose of promoting:
 - Reading and writing support projects submitted by individuals and non-profit private institutions.
 - Research related to reading, literary production, book dissemination, and libraries.
 - Supporting national creative literary initiatives.
 - Supporting individuals with cultural and literary skills from the state's citizens to enhance national intellectual content production and establish annual honorary awards for the distinguished ones.

- The National Reading Fund is authorized to receive financial support from all governmental and private entities, as well as donations and contributions from individuals and institutions, in accordance with the regulations outlined in the fund's establishment decree.

3.10. National Reading Month:

The National Law of Reading tends to lay the foundations within a plan aimed at adopting initiatives and activities to revitalize reading practices, as reading is the key to positive change in any country and should be a general social behavior encompassing all segments of society. Consolidating the culture of reading, learning, and knowledge is an essential guarantee and pillar for achieving innovation in various aspects of life and different development paths, because reading plays a major and effective role in building strong fortresses of progress. The law specifies:

- The Council of Ministers allocates a national month of each year for reading, in order to urge the community to read as part of their daily activities and encourage active participation in promoting a reading culture.
- Educational institutions are required to participate in the National Reading Month events.

4. Advantages and characteristics of the National Law of Reading:



Fig No. 03: Characteristics of the National Law of Reading

The uniqueness: The law is a proactive step, pioneering in the Arab region, by restoring the value of culture and promote the act of reading as an intellectual and communal behavior, and everyone must define his steps and include his duties in scientific and realistic clauses; As this step came as part of a long-term intellectual strategy, comprehensive and inclusive for all segments of society, including those with special needs and this step was a pioneer in promoting the necessary foundation for the growth of the society of knowledge that the conscious leadership of the Emirates aspires to build (Al Mulla, Ibrahim, <http://www.alittihad.ae/details.php?id=56319&y=2016>), In constructing it in a scientific resonance and sustainable manner, as it is the first legislation of its kind that obligates the government to intervene early in order to establish reading proficiency, by providing the cognitive toolkit for children up to the age of four, before enrolling in basic education. It is also the first of its kind in its formulation, as it is both legislative and executive in nature, encompassing programs, plans, visions, and initiatives, and coordinating governmental efforts. The law sets a precedent in providing a binding legislative formula to support and activate cognitive activity within a legal and systematic framework (Mansour, Ahmed, <http://www.albayan.ae/five-senses/2016-12-20-1.2801906>)

It makes all relevant state institutions responsible in one way or another for cultivating a society of knowledge, so that reading becomes an integral part of the comprehensive development and knowledge renaissance in the country.

Inclusiveness: One of the virtues of the law is its comprehensive nature, as it encompasses programs in various fields including educational, health, media, content creation, and lifelong reading. It works in an integrated and parallel manner to transform the reality of reading in Emirati society by 2026 and make it a way of life. It establishes binding frameworks for all government agencies in the educational, community, media and cultural sectors to instill reading among all segments of society at different age levels. The Law of Reading acquires exceptional importance as a comprehensive national law at the national level, as it highlights the UAE and its leadership's interest in human development in all its aspects and its efforts to develop the cultural assets of its citizens, ensuring the preparation and qualification of generations capable of establishing an Emirati intellectual heritage that can be further developed and built upon (<http://www.emaratalyoum.com/local-section/other/2016-11-01-1.941981>).

Integration: The law focuses on the integration of the educational system and reading. It stipulates that the Ministry of Education and the concerned authorities in the education sector shall be responsible for developing curricula and educational systems to enhance students' reading skills, obliging private educational institutions to develop their curricula to enable students to develop their linguistic abilities, and mandating all educational institutions to provide libraries tailored to students' needs and interests. The law promotes integration between the main sectors and laws related to science and culture, including education laws, individual property rights, copyright, and publications.

Clarity: The law is characterized by its clarity, through identifying the authorities responsible for implementing its articles and indicating the aspects of cooperation between them, as well as providing specific empowerment mechanisms, by establishing implementation plans that are subject to follow-up and review.

Empowerment: The law focuses on science and knowledge, providing education for all segments of society and enabling people to build their cognitive and intellectual capacities. The law also covers all aspects related to reading, including its development, dissemination, promotion, and support systems, in a way that ensures the institutionalization and sustainability of the cultural effort. The law is pioneering in several aspects, as it makes reading a constant and accessible right for everyone, which is instilled from birth, through the provision of three cognitive toolkits covering a child's needs from birth to the age of three. It sets binding frameworks for all government entities in the educational, social, media, and cultural sectors to promote reading among all segments of society.

5. Reading and its role in achieving sustainable cognitive development:

Today, there is a lot of talk about the concept of sustainability, which has become intricately linked with all aspects of life, the most important of it is commonly referred to as sustainable human development, which in its simplest terms refers to the sustainability or continuation of development while ensuring the fulfillment of the needs and aspirations of present generations (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, <http://www.alittihad.ae/wajahatdetails.php?id=74500>), preserving future generations' share of society's wealth and sustainable resources, as well as achieving sustainable means of livelihood, which involve building the necessary capacities and activities for living. In this contemporary era, societal development necessitates individuals in the community to possess both reading and writing proficiency, in order to be able to achieve cognitive, economic and social development. Literacy is the key that will empower future generations to acquire the

essential skills for continuous and sustainable learning and education, and there is no doubt that continuous learning and education is the prerequisite for achieving sustainable cognitive development. Accordingly, acquiring knowledge necessarily means expanding its dissemination and efficient utilization to improve people's lives, in a way that transforms society from a mere collection of a few knowledgeable individuals into a cohesive community system. It is indisputable that the significance and future effectiveness of the "law of reading" will definitely lead to the establishment of a solid base for a society of knowledge, steadily progressing towards sustainable knowledge development. Knowledge sustainability denotes the realization of knowledge over the long term or the ongoing and continuous attainment of knowledge, leading to the achievement of knowledge in both the present and future. Reading can contribute to achieving sustainable knowledge development in society through the following means:

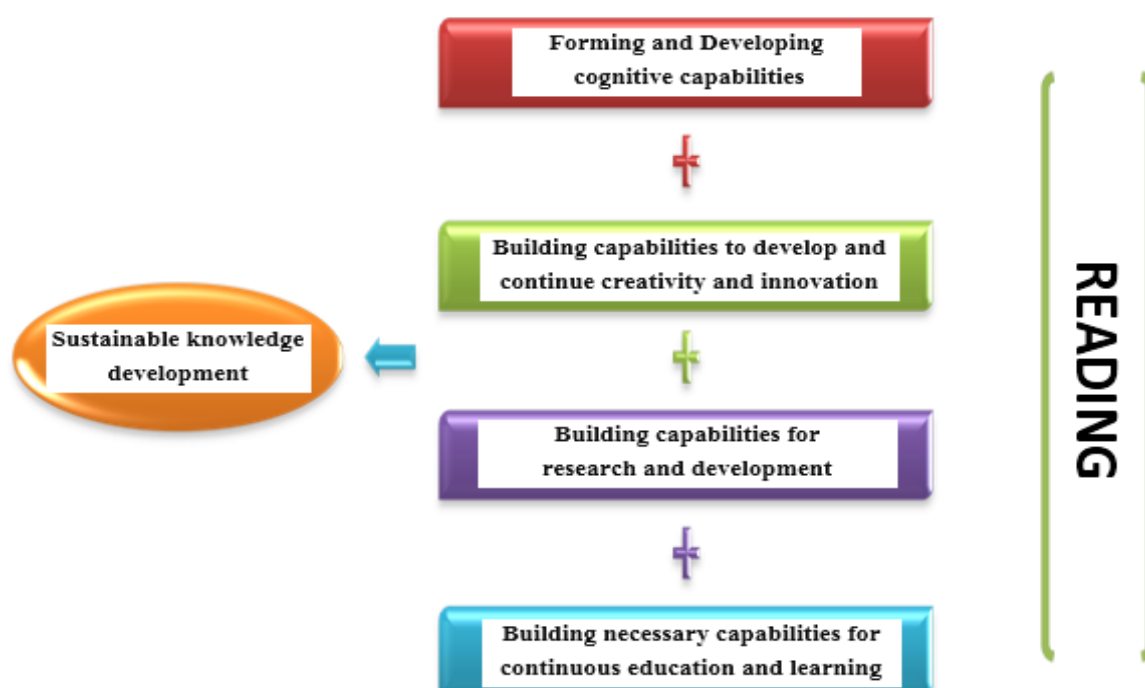


Fig No. 04: The role of reading in achieving sustainable knowledge development

• **Forming and developing Cognitive Capabilities:**

The starting point lies in mastering the decoding of the first elements of knowledge, by learning the art of reading and writing, transcending the shackles of alphabetic illiteracy, through the formation of more complex cognitive abilities, such as comprehension, interpretation, contemplation, and critical thinking. The intended knowledge here is the sum of acquired knowledge and skills throughout one's lifetime, whether through learning, reflection, or experience (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, <http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=70039>), and the consequent rise in human consciousness, the more an individual reads, the more he expands his perceptions, grows his cognitive abilities, and consciously understands the realities of the world in which he lives, and there is no doubt that the acquisition of knowledge is an ongoing cumulative process, serving as the initial steps in constructing an individual's cognitive framework... The more an individual grows in terms of age or cognition, the more numerous and diverse the sources of knowledge that make up this architecture (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, <http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=70039>)

Knowledge here equals the intellectual or cognitive capital acquired by individuals throughout their intellectual journey. We cannot envision the completion of the knowledge cycle (acquisition, production, publication, and employment) without reading being one of the most important stages and without which this cycle cannot be completed. It is the primary means to enhance the emotional and cognitive abilities of individuals, thereby contributing to the formation and development of their cognitive structure. Additionally, it is the primary means for gaining insight into the experiences of others in all fields of thought and creativity. It enables us to understand, assimilate, and benefit from the knowledge and cultural achievements of others, whether these others are partners in the society to which we belong or partners in the global community. If reading is the essential means of acquiring knowledge, it is also an essential means of disseminating that knowledge. Knowledge acquisition, adding it dissemination, cannot be accomplished in a society where illiteracy rates are high, whether in the alphabetic sense (lack of reading and writing skills) or in the cultural and cognitive sense (inability to effectively engage with the advancements of the technology era and the information revolution). (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, <http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=70039>).

The observer of the reality of Arab societies, and those who follow the studies, statistics and reports conducted in the past years on the reality of reading and its effects realize the terrible decline in reading in all Arab countries. These are serious indicators of the lack of attention that reading receives in our time. This lethargy and neglect that characterize many people in the Arab world towards reading threaten the nation with serious consequences in the future, such as loss of identity, loss of authentic historical heritage and stagnation of the nation from producing knowledge and reaching high capabilities in industrialization and production; and the emergence of effective leaders in various fields of life. From this perspective, it was necessary to have a law that binds all parties to work towards sowing the seeds of renewal and reform, and compensating what has been lost by building the Arab youth properly, by educating them on modern reading skills and methods, seeking to spread libraries, giving the Arab intellectual more space, and focusing on the role of parents in strengthening the link between the child and reading from an early age. This initiative requires a comprehensive strategy where multiple entities collaborate, including families, schools, media, cultural centers, and government agencies.

• **Building Capabilities to Develop Innovation and Creativity:**

The ability to create and innovate is one of the most important means to achieve sustainable knowledge development. Innovation is one of the concepts that has significantly gained popularity in recent times, which is evident in everyone's eagerness to attain it, not only at the level of individuals, but also at the level of countries. Reading is the optimal way to reach this noble goal, which necessitates that humans are not mere replicas of each other, but rather that they are unique and have their distinctive imprints and marks (Al Namir, Fatiha, <http://www.alkhaleej.ae/supplements/page/2cc44cb6-aadd-468f-b438-d59271d2b974>), considering that reading is the complementary part of our personal and professional lives, it is the key to the doors of various sciences and knowledge. Reading is the only means which is considered one of the most important elements for building civilizations and their development in various fields. If a person wants excel in a particular field, he must engage in reading to innovate and increase his expertise, through reading and applying through reading from useful knowledge is the secret of the progress and development of societies, as reading is a characteristic of civilized society, which has a fundamental role in the progress and advancement of nations, as the reading nation can confront and overcome wisely all the challenges it may face. Today, creativity and innovation have become two essential skills that

will enable humans to confront the challenges of the future and the increasing demands of the labor market, where competition will undoubtedly intensify among youth possessing diverse skills and capabilities that will determine their eligibility for leadership positions (Zoha Najib, <http://www.wise-qatar.org/teachers-on-your-marks-get-set-innovate>), all that built upon intricate details in which the academic path plays the most crucial role amidst all the intricacies it entails, determined by the quality of the educational system, this can be achieved through the National Law of Reading, which supports investment in the human element and a push for education, innovation and creativity, and these elements will only be achieved by developing and promoting the reading capacity in individuals of the society, which is also an incubator environment for reading and innovation a fertile ground for creators, and this will not be realized without reading becoming a way of life and without it becoming a companion of creativity, establishing a knowledge-based economy, changing the path of development to be based on science and innovation, and achieving sustainable prosperity does not come through dependency on importing expertise from abroad, but rather by cultivating it at home and nurturing it until it flourishes, raising a generation that is educated, literate, and aware of the developments in the world we live in and is familiar with its best ideas and latest theories in all sectors, promoting and consolidating the culture of reading, knowledge, and awareness is an essential guarantee and pillar to achieve innovation in all aspects of life and prosperity, and in various paths of sustainable knowledge development.

• **Developing research and development capabilities:**

Through this, we can not only follow all that is new in the knowledge space, but we can also positively interact positively with this new knowledge and enhance it according with our knowledge and cultural needs (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, <http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=74500>). Reading is the first gateway to receiving different and diverse knowledge, it is the only means of knowledge transfer, and here lies the primary importance of reading; as it can broaden and enrich one's horizons, which will inevitably and ultimately lead to to personal and collective development in life, reading itself is one of the most enjoyable and beneficial means at the same time, especially for those individuals who seek to enhance their lifestyles and achievements, and also to attain their aspirations. The significance of daily reading represents the weapon of nations in development and progress; due to its great impact in elevating human thinking and behavior by refining them, our minds do not directly perceive things, but through a cognitive medium consisting of scientific and mental principles, mental faculties, and life experiences. and to the extent that one reads, that medium improves, leading to a better understanding of our surroundings, thereby improving the quality of our lives, , so whoever does not read has disabled his cognitive faculties. There is no scientist or thinker without reading.

There are many creative and successful people in the world, in both the East and the West, each with their unique characteristics and qualities across their various fields of creativity and excellence but there is one trait that unites most of these contributors to the advancement of humanity, adding clear touches to its progress through the exploration of the world of reading, granting them the ability to comprehend reality and envision future horizons (<http://www.alittihad.ae/details.php?id=34226&y=2013>). Hence, there lies the interest in spreading reading among youth and future generations through various initiatives and efforts that instill in them the love of reading and belief in its abundant benefits for them in shaping their personalities positively, thereby actively contributing to the ongoing process of great civilizational development continuously experienced by the nation.

• **Building necessary capabilities for continuous education and learning:**

From learning how to decipher the codes of the first elements of knowledge, through learning to read and write, and getting out of the cocoon of alphabetic illiteracy, advancing towards more complex cognitive abilities, such as the ability to understand, interpret and reflect, and critical thinking (<http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=74500>), we all acknowledge that reading is the basic means that enables us to develop and enhance these cognitive abilities necessary to interact and deal positively with the era of knowledge and the information revolution, forming the necessary skills for continuous and sustainable education and learning, especially considering that continuous education and learning are essential requirements for achieving sustainable cognitive development. We find current educational systems in dire need of a reform revolution in terms of curricula and teaching methods to keep pace with the global economic and technological revolution in a manner that provides teachers with more tools and greater freedom to innovate in their profession and choose what suits their aspirations in preparing the future generation from whom much is anticipated. The synergy between the processes of reading and education leads to the formation of a qualified human capital capable of generating, employing, and disseminating knowledge in various aspects of life. These processes are the essence of the society of knowledge. (Al Nahyan, Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid, <http://www.alittihad.ae/wajhatdetails.php?id=75010>). Future generations must rely on reading and turn it into a daily habit and daily practice to expand their knowledge, awareness, and empower them to reach the future; because Reading is the means of knowledge and erudition and is the main source of inspiration and motivation to innovate and utilize knowledge resources, as it is the responsibility of youth to establish educated and conscious communities that include creators, scientists, and thinkers who employ their efforts and energies to elevate their countries and build a bright future for them. Although the habit of reading is very important at different age stages, the lack of attention to it is almost non-existent, which constitutes a negative phenomenon that affects the effectiveness of education and the refinement of abilities and the continuation of education beyond graduation, which should create close cooperation between the school as an educational institution and the library as a cultural institution as a primary requirement, in order to plan effective programs and achieve their objectives in developing reading as an advanced and developed intellectual activity that supports the use of information sources, with books being among the most important of those sources in a way that increases awareness of the importance of employing information to achieve societal development goals in the era of information technology.

The National Law of Reading emphasizes the importance of reading as a tool of daily life in contemporary society, as the most reliable way to develop individual abilities and skills, and to support innovation, creativity and development efforts, which in turn support sustainable knowledge development. It is the window of the mind to the fields of knowledge and the basis for learning in its broad and continuous sense in an era where science, knowledge, and information are constantly evolving in an unprecedented rate; it is also the key to sciences and the human tool for understanding oneself and surroundings, and to face various economic, social, political and developmental challenges in an effective and sustainable manner.

6. Employing the National Law of Reading to achieve sustainable knowledge development:

Real sustainable knowledge development in society can only be achieved with a set of procedures, institutional mechanisms and material and moral structures that can be summarized as follows:

a. Procedures:

- Emphasize the commitment to apply the law to activate reading activity and continue sustainable knowledge development. The intention here is to have functional legal mechanisms as part of the regulatory apparatus, to be integrated into a legal vision that enables legal professionals at all levels to regulate and push it forward with modern laws that confirm the inclusive approach to development. Imposing literacy by law on the members of the same society will constitute a unique civilization that will contribute to shaping history and molding minds of humans even after thousands of years.
- The law must be general in its application, published to the public, anticipated and expected, clear, harmonious and consistent, its compliance practical, in that it combines administration with legal capability, being consistent, and links the legal discourse with adherence to it.
- The need to disseminate a culture of awareness about laws and their operationalization, as a modern nation can never exist in the absence of the rule of law. A legal state needs to activate the law and enforce it on everyone without exception or compromise.
- The implementation of the law is not only the responsibility of citizens, but also the responsibilities in any position starting from the smallest employee up to the highest authority in the administration, all of them are fully responsible for implementing and enforcing the law. Those who ignore the activation of the law, regardless of their position, are committing a crime against society and the people.
- Providing coordination and collaboration mechanisms to implement the provisions of the National Law of Reading, by implementing the initiatives of the national literacy strategy according to a phased action plan, where the implementation of these initiatives will be followed up within the government performance monitoring and evaluation system, which includes necessary performance indicators to measure the progress and achievements in each of these initiatives.
- Ensuring mandatory frameworks for all governmental entities in the educational, societal, media and cultural sectors to instill literacy among all segments of the community at all ages levels.
- Enhancing integration between sectors and key laws related to science and culture, namely the laws of education, individual property rights, publishing and publications.
- All institutions care about their interacting environment to provide motivational means to use their time in reading, which in turn benefits them by enriching knowledge and enhancing literacy.

b. Institutional mechanisms and physical and moral structures:



Fig No. 05: Institutional mechanisms and physical and moral structures to activate the national law of reading

- **Civil Society:** Civil society consists of independent and autonomous civil entities that carry out voluntary humanitarian activities, either in coordination with or independently of the state, in order to achieve comprehensive development (Hamdawi, Jamil, <http://www.diwanalarab.com/spip.php?article11595>). These entities play monumental, immense, and invaluable roles in various fields, disciplines, arts, knowledge and literature to intellectually, emotionally, and physically enlighten citizens, disseminate culture and knowledge, and instill the love for reading among them to eradicate illiteracy, backwardness and ignorance. In other words, reading qualifies people to engage in positive, productive, purposeful and constructive endeavors that serve the nation, humanity, and society as a whole, by promoting conscious and effective participation in achieving sustainable knowledge development and developing awareness in all segments of society, in addition to its positive role in activating the reading law by adhering to its articles and spreading it on the widest scale. The importance of the societal role in determining the noble objectives of the law of reading through social development institutions, primarily the school and the family, as their respective roles are considered vital in this regard.

- **Infrastructures:** It is not possible to talk about cognitive and scientific renaissance in a country without providing appropriate, multiple and diverse cognitive, technological and scientific structures, such as establishing information and scientific institutions, in addition to creating institutes, museums, libraries and knowledge cities, and encouraging people to frequent these establishments in large numbers as they serve as tools for enlightenment, education, and a means of fighting illiteracy, ignorance and backwardness. Like for example, providing public libraries or reading facilities in various regions of the country, in accordance with the law, and incentivizing the private sector to invest in libraries and cultural centers by granting them a set of incentives, facilities, and suitable lands, is a civilizational achievement that many countries in the world are unable to achieve, making the UAE a globally exemplary model, especially in the fields of education, culture, and knowledge. The ability of a society to acquire knowledge and effectively utilize it in the service of sustainable development depends on the level of investment in the existing cultural, educational, pedagogical and technological structures within the society, as well as the role of relevant

institutions and community bodies. Therefore, knowledge acquisition is an indicator of the beginning of knowledge development.

- **Financial and Moral Support:** The act of reading cannot give its desired fruits and results in the short or long term without real support and the provision of material and financial resources. In other words, fostering reading behavior cannot be built or planned for instantaneously, periodically, or prospectively in order to achieve sustainable knowledge development, in the absence of material, technological, and digital equipment, or in the absence of financial resources. Therefore, it is necessary to provide grants, awards, donations, and certificates of encouragement or appreciation to associations, teams, clubs, individuals, intellectuals, artists, and others, to encourage them to contribute, exert, create, and continue their noble and elevated work, and it is imperative for the State or private institutions to support them with all available means.

- **Participatory Approach:** Knowledge development can only be possible through adopting a policy of collaborative approach. This entails the necessity of openness towards internal or external potential partners and stakeholders to obtain material, financial and moral support. These partnerships must be subject to legislative and legal provisions, ensuring they do not conflict with the objectives of the law on one hand, and the goals of sustainable knowledge development on the other.

- **The Media:** When looking at Western countries, there is a plethora of media channels radio, television, satellite, and printed media dedicated to all aspects of reading, its practices, and theories; while we lack them in many Arab countries. Media institutions are considered strategic partners in reinforcing and consolidating the importance of reading as a way of life across various social groups, with a focus on educating the public on how to select knowledge sources that are characterized by a high scientific and cultural value, as the National Law of Reading views the media as one of the most important supportive systems for reading and from this perspective, media institutions should spare no effort in establishing an integrated policy that embeds reading as an essential component of society and works towards implementing this law.

- **Learning and Education Development:** Cognitive development can only be achieved by developing learning and education at all levels and involving educational and academic institutions in promoting reading activities. In other words, education serves as the locomotive of sustainable development and the basis for progress and prosperity, especially when it is based on creative foundations rooted in productivity, innovation, scientific research, and self-reliance.

- **Political Effectiveness:** It is challenging to achieve development without a distinguished and creative political efficacy characterized by rapid planning, management, execution, and implementation, with the capacity to adapt the available resources to serve society at all levels and dimensions. In other words, development cannot be achieved in a society known for its stagnation and slowness, Therefore, the UAE has become one of the countries experiencing political, social, cultural, technological and scientific dynamism, enabling it to compete for leadership and excellence. In this way, it is capable of embodying this law in reality and activating it to assess its future outcomes.

Results:

- Following the progress and prosperity achieved by the UAE in various industrial, economic, health, infrastructure and human development fields, the Law of Reading emerges as an advanced stage in the development and investment of the human element in the country, education has shifted from being mandatory to being a societal norm, evidenced by the decrease in illiteracy rates, the transition marks move from basic stages of teaching reading and writing, to higher practical degrees and the UAE citizens became holders of higher degrees in all fields, the shift extends beyond institutional education to individual-selected self-directed learning according to self interests with the issuance of the Law of Reading, which will contribute to constructing a refined knowledge society.
- The National Law of Reading is a realistic translation of the UAE's commitment to consolidate cultural, scientific, and knowledge pathways among societies, as the law in its essence, tackles the fight against ignorance and knowledge poverty among individuals, presenting a pioneering initiative that resolves various cultural issues and sets a clear framework for dealing with reading and its concepts in the next progressing stage.
- The UAE leadership, through the National Law of Reading, has set the vision and mechanisms for its achievement and responsabilized each individual and institution in society to fulfill their roles, to make the UAE an exemplary Arab model to be followed in employing reading for societal prosperity and future-building. It represents a qualitative approach to addressing the challenge of literacy and knowledge in future generations and achieves a breakthrough in the field of reading. History will record the qualitative results of this law, which includes frameworks and legislation governing reading mechanisms and promote the culture of reading, especially as it emphasizes the importance of reading and its effective role in shaping our general culture, nurturing our minds with science and knowledge.
- The National Law of Reading, constitutes a solid foundation for building a strong intellectual heritage. Dedicating a large number of legal articles and strategic initiatives to empower reading among school students, youth, and even newborns, that highlights the vision of the wise Emirati leadership, which invests in nurturing human potential from an early age and relying on young generations armed with authentic culture to build advanced knowledge societies.
- The National Law of Reading addresses different stages of reading, by emphasizing reading from infancy by providing three knowledge bags that cover a child's needs up to the age of four. It is well known that reading contributes to the development of a child's knowledge, provides him with new terms and vocabulary that contribute to the formation of his linguistic dictionary. Furthermore, reading develops his comprehension, analysis, deduction, and ability to connect between topics, discuss, express opinions, and helps him acquire good habits and attitudes.
- The National Law of Reading supports publishing industry programs and the promotion of the Arabic language, it also refers to an important point in making libraries attractive to people, exempting books as a commodity from taxes and fees, and every institution must have a library.
- The National Law of Reading, with its various articles that support reading, is considered a vital part of the system of laws that stimulate sustainable knowledge development and contribute to addressing knowledge deficiencies, and in a clear strategic manner, it represents a legislative for developmental cultural, societal and civilizational initiative.
- The National Law of Reading restores the Arabic language to its status, consolidates its concepts in future generations' minds, and puts it on the track of competitiveness in the race of civilizations. In that reading strengthens the link between the student and the book, and creates appropriate opportunities for him to acquire diverse experiences, and gains him a

wealth of words, sentences, expressions, methods and ideas. As it is essential to recognize modern methods to instill a love of books in children, cultivate a passion for reading from an early age, which is a joint shared responsibility between home and school.

- The National Law of Reading is based on a strategic vision that reading is one of the pillars of knowledge, an essential tool in the acquisition, dissemination and exchange of knowledge, it places special emphasis on reading within the overall context of knowledge and development, highlighting the role of reading as a gateway to empowerment and progress.
- The comprehensive nature of the National Law of Reading ensures the reconstruction of the work system by enabling employees to achieve sustainable knowledge development, thereby laying a solid foundation for building quality expertise in various labor sectors.
- The law introduces for the first time the concept of knowledge volunteering, by encouraging members of society to devote part of their time to reading for the elderly, patients, children, and those with disabilities to read.
- The law aims to address the issue of knowledge deficiency (knowledge poverty), which is considered one of the crucial hindrances to human development in developing countries, especially in Arab nations, as the intellectual scarcity leads to a diminished capacity for productivity and competitiveness, where knowledge has become one of the means of measuring a country's progress, even becoming a "benchmark of human progress", particularly in this significant phase of global societal development.
- The law seeks to make reading as a permanent feature in public facilities by requiring cafes in commercial centers to provide reading materials for their customers. It establishes the respect for books as a fundamental value among students, emphasizing the need to preserve them, avoid damage, reuse them, or donate them.
- The law elevates the educational system by integrating it with intellectual reading ensuring they are not apart, by requiring schools and universities to develop their own libraries and promote reading among students through annual plans set by all educational institutions.

Recommendation:

- Establishing a national and local policy for reading and education by providing the necessary infrastructure, training the required human resources, as well as creating book fairs and promoting reading to ensure the effective implementation of the law.
- Developing coordination and cooperation mechanisms to implement the provisions of the National Law of Reading, through the implementation of initiatives and projects to initiate reading activities according to a phased action plan, and then monitoring the implementation of these initiatives within an evaluation and performance evaluation system, which includes performance indicators to measure the progress and achievements of each initiative or activity.
- Strengthening the role of families and communities in changing individuals' reading behaviors, improving the educational and evaluative systems to support reading, providing a supportive and stimulating reading environment in the workplace, activating the role of the media in supporting the national strategy of reading, enriching reading content in the country, and building the necessary systems and infrastructure to support reading in the long term to ensure progress towards implementing the legal text on reading.
- The necessity of involving relevant parties in determining book prices (the government, publishers, distributors, etc.) to work on reducing book prices in order to stimulate reading.
- Encouraging reading within educational institutions and leisure facilities by organizing reading competitions and offering incentive awards to young readers and children, and working on changing society's perception of parks, recreational areas, and commercial centers

as not just places for entertainment, but also as a healthy and fertile environment for the cultivation of values and concepts such as the value of reading.

- Ensuring the sustainability of all governmental efforts to promote reading among all age groups and define the main responsibilities of government entities in this field.

Conclusion:

If we consider reading as the means to develop and continue to bring out the creativity and innovation inherent in each individual, which are among the most important means of achieving sustainable knowledge development, and also assisting in research and development, it is without exaggeration the key to safe passage for the generations of present and future societies, and it is one of the necessary means that enable us to comprehend the requirements of today's society, develop capacities that are essential for survival and proactive interaction with the society of knowledge, starting from enhancing basic cognitive abilities that enable us to decipher the first elements of knowledge, and ending with more complex cognitive abilities. All what was mentioned above becomes sustainable when it is able to adapt to unexpected pressures and surprises, and the lack in human capital inevitably leads to the inability to achieve sustainable livelihoods, hence sustainable reading plays the role of the main guarantor of human capital formation through achieving sustainable knowledge development; ensuring that the requirements of sustainable development as a whole are met.

Therefore, when the society of knowledge and sustainable development converge in the development programs of Arab countries, this combination should lead to the comprehensive societal development by meeting current and future needs based on the predominance of knowledge and science, making them the guide for every thought and initiative, which can be achieved through the National Law of Reading. Consequently, the acquisition of knowledge necessarily means its dissemination and employing it efficiently to enhance people's lives, transforming society from a system consisting of a few knowledgeable individuals to a community system. Undoubtedly, the 'law of reading' and its future importance and effectiveness will certainly lay a solid foundation for a knowledge-based society, steadily progressing towards sustainable knowledge development.

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