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JAPAN INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AGENCY
(JICA)

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT CONTRACT,
SAUDIZATION AND EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION OF MEDICAL STAFF

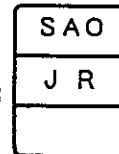
A SECTOR PROFILE

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MAY 1999



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Section 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Ministry of Health (MOH) is the state agency supervising health sector in Saudi Arabia as a whole while, at the same time, it is a direct provider of health services through its Kingdom-wide network of primary health centers and its large number of general and specialist hospitals. Health services are provided also, but with lesser shares, by other governmental agencies such as Ministry of Defense and Aviation (MODA), Ministry of Interior (MOI), Red Crescent Society, Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, General Organization for Social Insurance, King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Riyadh National Hospital, ARAMCO, Presidency of Youth Welfare, and four University hospitals, in addition to private sector companies.

HOSPITALS

Total number of hospitals in the Kingdom in 1997 was 303 with a total number of 44,213 beds giving a rate of 2.34 beds / 1000 individuals. MOH facilities accounted for 59 percent of all hospitals (180 hospitals) followed by private sector hospitals at 28 percent (84 hospitals) and other governmental hospitals at 13% (39 hospitals).

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION CONTRACT

Due to the big number of MOH hospitals and its large scale overall responsibilities, MOH does not actually operate all its own hospitals but rather hire private hospital management and operation companies to perform this job under MOH's supervision. Process of selecting and hiring contractors takes place through open public tenders. Low price coupled with acceptable track record is the predominant factor when choosing among bidders. Common scope of work includes provision of staff and supply of consumables. Contracts usually cover

costs reimbursable for equipment and supplies and man-month labor rate for the personnel provided. Contract duration is normally 3 years extendable and / or renewable.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In its efforts to sustain high levels of health care to Saudi people, along with increasing Saudisation levels in the health sector, MOH cooperates with Ministry of Higher Education in expanding medical and health educational institutions. Number of University Colleges of Medicine has reached 4 while University Colleges of Allied Health Sciences are 3. In addition to MOH's 22 Health Secondary Institutes and 13 Colleges of Health Sciences. Parallel efforts are taking place seeking Human Resources Development (HRD) of Saudi medical staff by offering them access to continuous medical education and postgraduate certificates.

Section 2

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Section 2

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for the following:

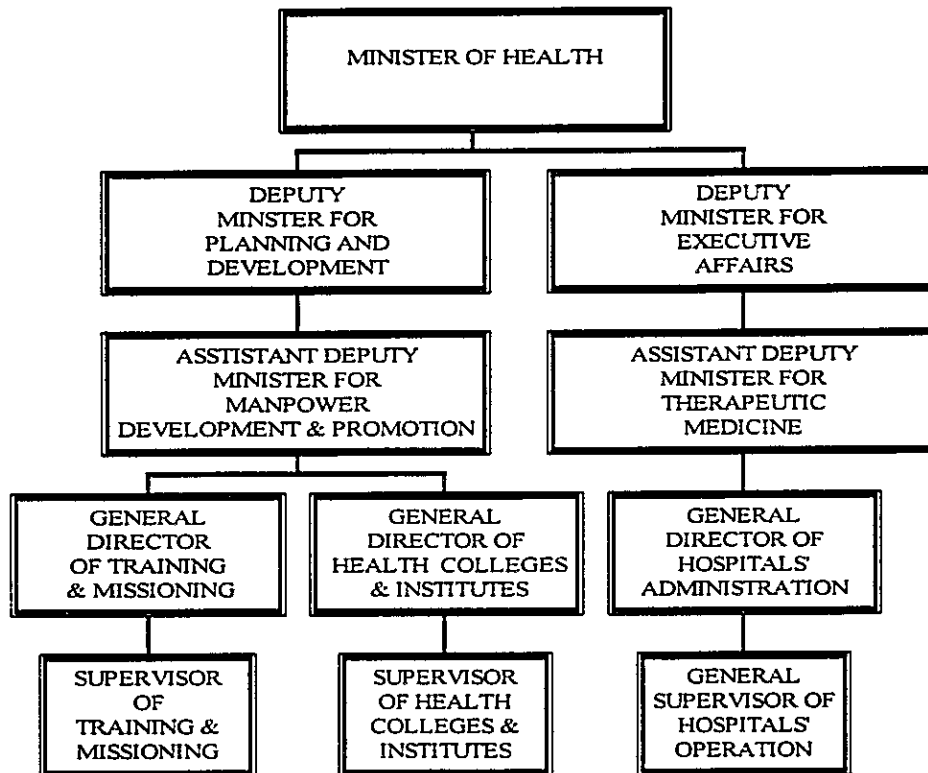
1. Provision of health care services through state-owned hospitals and health centers in various regions in the Kingdom.
2. Development and upgrading of health and therapeutic services and health personnel.
3. Implementation of necessary actions and procedures for disease control and prevention.

Hospitals' operation is under responsibility of the General Supervisor of Hospitals Operation who reports to the General Director of Hospitals Administration. The latter reports to the Assistant Deputy Minister for Therapeutic Medicine that reports to the Deputy Minister for Executive Affairs.

Health education is under responsibility of the Supervisor and the General Director of Health Colleges and Institutes with training under responsibility of the Supervisor and General Director of Training and Missioning. The two General Directors report to the Assistant Deputy Minister for Manpower Development and Promotion. The latter reports to the Deputy Minister for Planning and Development.

The organizational chart of hospitals' operation and health education and training in MOH is as follows:

**MOH'S ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF HOSPITALS' OPERATION
AND HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING**



Section 3

PRIVATE COMPANIES INVOLVEMENT

Section 3

PRIVATE COMPANIES INVOLVMENT

Many Saudi private sector companies are involved in the Hospital Management and Operation (HMO) business. For some of them, HMO is their main line of business, while for others HMO is one of their diversified activities that include contracting, cleaning and/or maintenance as major activities. Hereunder is a list with some information on the top names in the market of HMO:

1. Saudi Medicare Company

An affiliate of **El-Saif Group** that is ranked 31 among top 1000 Saudi companies in 1998.

2. Al Bayan Medical Company

An affiliate of **Al Bayan Group** that is ranked 53 among top 1000 companies.

3. General Arabian Medical and Allied Services Limited (GAMA)

It is considered number one in the HMO business.

4. Samama Company for Operation and Management

It is ranked 145 in the top 1000 and was established 20 years ago. Its paid capital is SR 25 million, total assets SR 288 million and sales SR 317 million for the year of 1998. HMO is one of its main activities including cleaning and maintenance. Samama is currently operating Al-Fanatir Hospital owned by the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu in addition to various MOH and other governmental hospitals.

5. Al-Mutabagani Health Services Company Limited

Its activities encompass HMO, ownership of hospitals and clinics, marketing and distribution of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment, and development and application of hospital related computer systems. The company operates King Fahd Specialist Hospital in Buraidah, Qassim Province, and King Khaled Hospital in Al Kharj owned by MOH. In addition, it operates Saudi ARAMCO's Remote Area Clinics. The company owns 3 hospitals: 2 in Jeddah and 1 in Madinah in addition to 1 dispensary in Jubail.

6. Al Mouwasat Medical Services

Located in Dammam, manages and operates hospitals and owns 2 dispensaries in Jubail and Dammam.

7. Al Mana Medical Services

An affiliate of Al Mana Group that owns a hospital and pharmacies in Dammam and Jubail. Company provides medical services, HMO, and supply, installation and commissioning of hospital equipment.

8. Luluatt International Hospitals Group Limited

Its headquarters is located in Jubail with two branches in Riyadh and Jeddah. The company has technical cooperation with International Hospitals Group in the United Kingdom. In the field of HMO, Company runs Royal Commission Medical Center and Healthcare in Yanbu and Haii Clinics in Jubail. Before, it operated Al Fanatir Hospital in Jubail, for a period of 10 years ended in 1997, which is currently operated by Samama.

9. DYNARABIA Company Limited

It is a Saudi-US owned company established in 1977 in Dammam. HMO is one of its diversified lines of business including technical support services for military airbases and civil airports. Main office is located in Riyadh with a number of branches in Jeddah and Eastern Province. Paid capital is SR 20 million. Total assets SR 173 million and Sales SR 145 million for 1998.

In addition to the above-mentioned names, other companies well known in HMO business include the following:

10. AMI Saudi Arabia Limited / Ali Rida
11. Zamil Operations and Maintenance Company Limited
12. SOMC
13. Rezayat Company Limited
14. Zahran Company
15. Programs and Projects Company (currently operating Prince Salman Maternity Hospital owned by MOH)
16. Twaik Establishment
17. Charter Company
18. Orbit Summit Health Limited
19. Safari Company Limited
20. United Medical Group
21. Aziz Architectural Company Limited Contracting and Trading

Section 4

PRIORITY OF GOVERNMENT FOR PRIVATIZATION

Section 4

PRIORITY OF GOVERNMENT FOR PRIVATIZATION

The Sixth Development Plan stipulates that the private sector will be given opportunity to finance construction of many health facilities under appropriate arrangements with concerned government agencies. These health facilities include health colleges, institutes and training centers for Saudis.

Government's priority for privatization is also reflected in MOH's reliance on hospital management and operating private sector companies in running a sizable number of its hospitals. In 1997, approximately 30% of MOH's hospitals were operated by private sector companies. Number of physicians working in MOH's hospitals run by private sector companies constitute 30% of total number of physicians in all MOH's hospitals while nurses constitute 31.8% of total nurses.

Government's encouragement for private sector has resulted in its recording of the highest growth rate in number of hospitals compared to the other two governmental sectors. Private sector hospitals had grown by 12% from 1996 to 1997 while MOH's hospitals increased by only 2.27% and other governmental sectors' hospitals remained constant. As for bed capacity, private hospitals achieved as well the highest growth rate of 19% and MOH and other governmental sector recorded 0.38% and 2% respectively. Private hospitals' expansion, both number-wise and bed capacity-wise, led to a high relative growth in manpower.

Section 5

DEGREE OF CURRENT ACTIVITY AND RELATIVE GROWTH

Section 5

DEGREE OF CURRENT ACTIVITY AND RELATIVE GROWTH

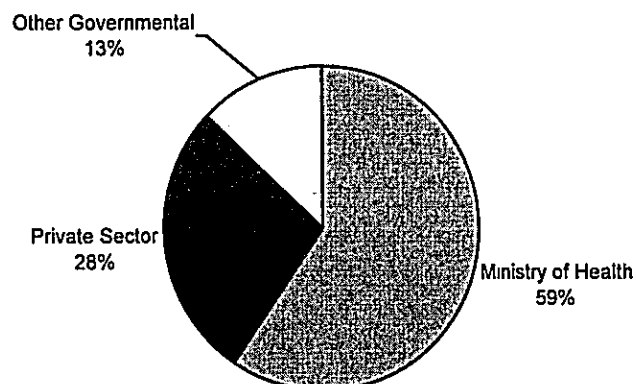
HOSPITALS

The number of operating hospitals in the Kingdom increased by an annual compounded rate of 2% over the 1992-1997 period to reach 303 hospitals as of end of 1997. Ministry of Health facilities accounted for 59% of all hospitals (or 180 hospitals), followed by private sector hospitals at 28% (84 hospitals) and other governmental hospitals at 13% (39 hospitals)

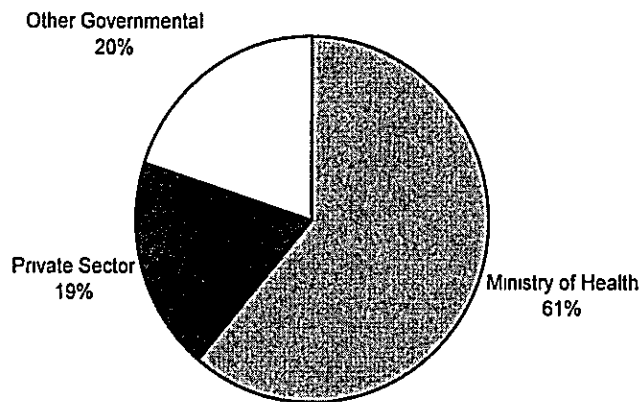
Total bed capacity is 44,213 of which MOH hospitals have 61% (27,058 beds). Other governmental hospitals are ranked second with 20% of total bed capacity (or 8,970 beds) in spite of the fact that they are the lowest number-wise; this is due to their relative large sizes. The rest of 19% is the share of private hospitals.

Chart 5 -1

Number of Hospitals,1997

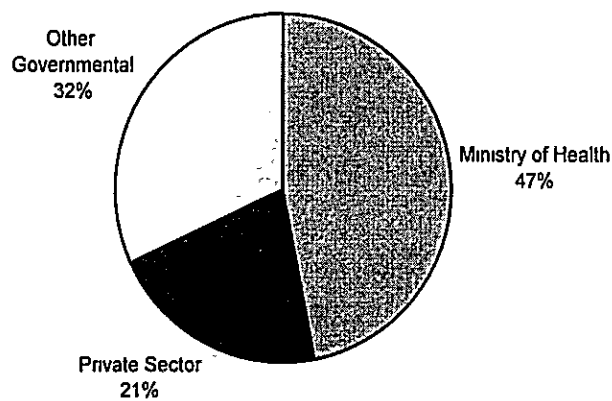


**Chart 5-2
Hospitals' Bed Capacity, 1997**



Other governmental hospitals have the largest average number of beds / hospital (230 in 1997), being almost one and half times as large as the average MOH hospitals (150). Private sector has the lowest average number of beds (97).

**Chart 5-3
Hospitals' Manpower, 1997**



Total manpower employed in hospitals was 104,169 employees in 1997 including physicians, nurses, allied health personnel, technical personnel, administrative personnel and workers. Other governmental hospitals were the most highly staffed employing 32% of total manpower (33,321 employees) at an employment rate of 854 employees / hospital being almost three times the rate in the other two categories of hospitals. Numbers of employees were 48,929 (47% of the total) and 21,919 (21%) in MOH's hospitals and private hospitals, respectively.

It is worth noting that manpower in MOH's hospitals were 69% constituted of personnel hired by Hospital's Management and Operation private companies being 33,640. This indicates the considerable role private sector plays in health sector either directly through its own hospitals or indirectly by operating MOH's hospitals.

Trend data of number of hospitals, bed capacity and rate of beds / hospital in the period 1991 – 1997 are shown in **Table 5-1** for MOH's hospitals, other governmental hospitals and private hospitals. The highest annual compounded growth rates (ACGR) were recorded for other governmental hospitals as their number increased over that period by 3.35%, their bed capacity by 3.53% and rate of beds / hospital by 0.15%. Private hospitals came in second recording 2.60%, 2.67% and 0% in number, bed capacity and rate of bed / hospital respectively. MOH' hospitals recorded a positive ACGR of 1.87% in number and 0.11% in bed capacity while recording a negative ACGR of 0.86% in rate of bed / hospital. Total number of hospitals increased by an ACGR of 3.46% over that 6 years period and total bed capacity increased by 1.20%, however, rate of beds / hospital deteriorated by 0.45%.

Table 5-1
Hospitals by Sectors, Numbers, Beds and Rate of Beds / Hospital
1412/1417H (1992/1997G)

Sector		1412	1413	1414	1415	1416	1417	6 years Aver.	ACGR %
Ministry of Health	Number	170	174	173	175	176	180	175	1.87
	Bed Capacity	26878	26974	26878	26737	26955	27058	26913	0.11
	Beds/ Hospital	158	155	155	153	153	150	154	-0.86
Other Governmental	Number	32	32	34	36	39	39	35	3.35
	Bed Capacity	7285	7338	8357	8563	8794	8970	8218	3.53
	Beds/ Hospital	228	229	246	238	225	230	233	0.15
Private Sector	Number	72	75	72	74	75	84	75	2.60
	Bed Capacity	6988	7477	6592	6616	6876	8185	7122	2.67
	Beds/ Hospital	97	100	92	89	92	97	94	0.00
Total	Number	274	281	279	285	290	303	285	3.46
	Bed Capacity	41151	41789	41827	41916	42625	44213	42254	1.20
	Beds/ Hospital	150	149	150	147	147	146	148	-0.45

Source: 1996/1997 Annual Health Reports, MOH.

SAUDIZATION

Saudisation in health personnel in hospitals varies substantially by personnel categories and hospitals categories. Data of 1997 health personnel in hospitals are shown in Table 5-2. The best achievement was in allied health personnel in MOH's hospitals being 6,306 persons constituted almost half of total personnel in that category. The lowest Saudi contribution was in nursing in private hospitals as 2 Saudi nurses only, out of 6,460, were employed by private hospitals.

In general, MOH's hospitals were absorbing the most of Saudi health personnel at a Saudisation level of 28% (13,540 persons) followed by other governmental hospitals at a percentage of 24% (7,792 persons). After a wide gap came private hospitals at an extremely low level of 1%.

Taking nurses' category specifically, we find that 69% of total Saudi nurses in all hospitals are employed in MOH's hospitals. This could be attributed to high qualifications and experience required in other governmental hospitals on the one hand and relatively low salaries in private hospitals on the other.

Table 5-2

Saudi Health Personnel in Hospitals, 1417H -1997G

	MOH's Hospitals			Other Governmenta			Private Hospitals			Total		
	Saudis	Total	% of Total	Saudis	Total	% of Total	Saudis	Total	% of Total	Saudis	Total	% of Total
Physicians	2,280	9,993	23%	2,679	6,806	39%	134	3,011	4%	5,093	19,810	26%
Nurses	4,954	25,622	19%	2,212	16,447	13%	2	6,460	0.03%	7,168	48,529	15%
Allied Health	6,306	12,776	49%	2,901	9,302	31%	25	4,507	1%	9,232	26,585	35%
Total Health Personnel	13,540	48,391	28%	7,792	32,555	24%	161	13,978	1%	21,493	94,924	23%

Source: 1997 Annual Health Report, MOH.

Trend of Saudisation in health sector, including all health institutions, in the period 1413-1417H / 1993-1997G is shown in Table 5-3. Percentages of Saudi physicians, nurses and allied health personnel are shown in Charts 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6 respectively.

Table 5-3

Physicians*, Nurses and Allied Health Personnel**, KSA, 1413-1417H / 1993-1997G

		1413		1414		1415		1416		1417	
		Number	% Saudi	Number	% Saudi	Number	% Saudi	Number	% Saudi	Number	% Saudi
MOH	Physicians	14,554	12.3	15,125	14.0	15,476	15.5	15,266	17.1	14,717	19.1
	Nurses	33,373	15.8	35,687	18.2	35,219	19.5	34,947	22.1	34,739	23.9
	Allied Health Personnel	18,528	43.9	19,325	45.8	19,973	48.1	20,250	50.7	20,131	53.1
Other Gov. Sector	Physicians	5,076	32.4	6,176	33.3	6,539	36.9	6,796	36.6	6,806	39.4
	Nurses	12,485	8.6	15,622	13.8	15,534	15.0	15,679	14.7	16,447	13.5
	Allied Health Personnel	7,659	31.5	8,958	26.7	9,197	26.8	10,014	28.7	9,302	31.2
Private Sector	Physicians	8,135	2.3	7,926	1.3	8,291	1.7	8,482	2.7	8,891	3.3
	Nurses	11,232	0.4	9,937	0.1	9,983	0.2	10,588	0.9	10,800	0.9
	Allied Health Personnel	4,653	7.7	3,884	1.2	3,877	1.2	4,013	3.1	6,540	1.9
Total	Physicians	27,765	13.0	29,227	14.6	30,306	16.3	30,544	17.4	30,414	19.9
	Nurses	57,090	11.0	61,246	14.1	60,736	15.2	61,214	16.5	61,986	17.1
	Allied Health Personnel	30,840	35.4	32,167	35.1	33,047	36.7	34,277	35.8	35,973	37.7

Source: 1997 Annual Health Report, MOH.

* Include dentists

** Include pharmacists

Chart 5-4

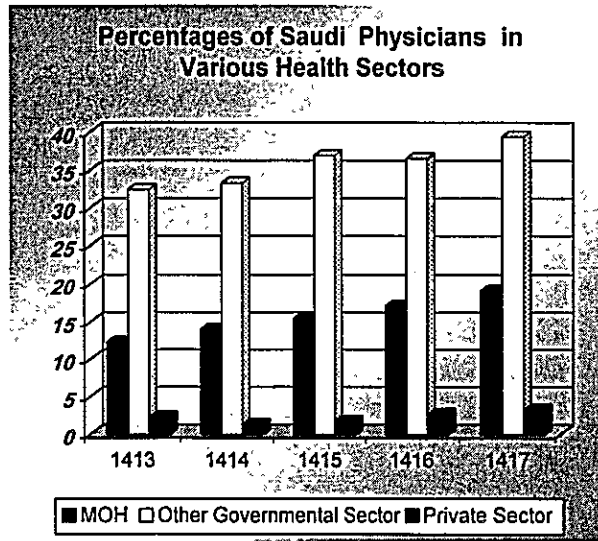


Chart 5-5

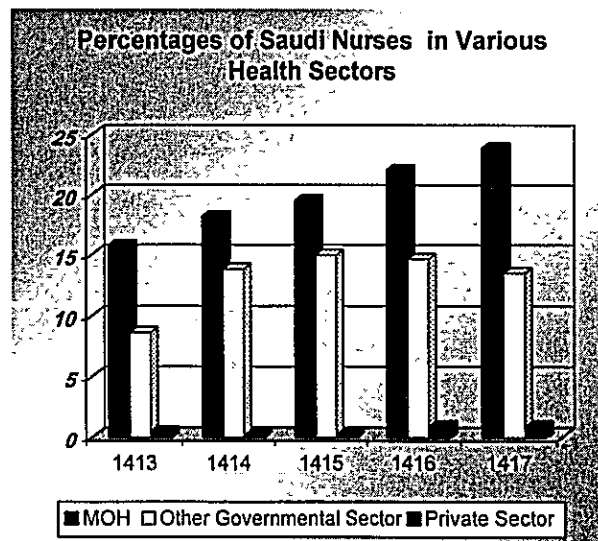
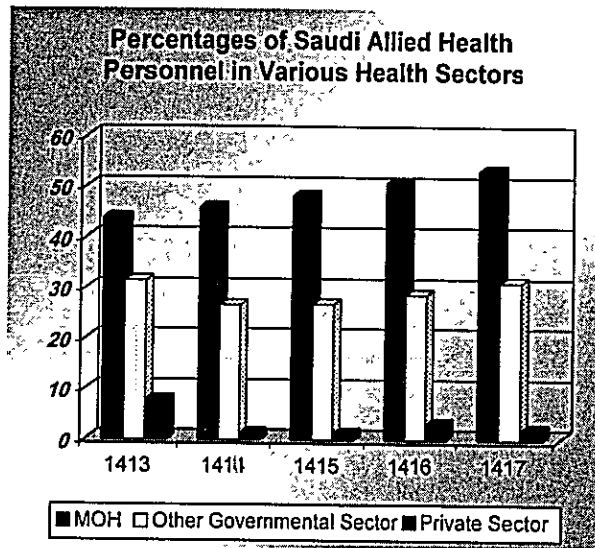


Chart 5 –6



Saudisation in various health sectors, as evidenced from above table and charts, was in the up-trend during 1413 – 1417H / 1993 – 1997G period. However, the increase was insignificant as number of total Saudi health personnel including dentists and pharmacists slightly increased from 115,695 in 1413H / 1993G to 128,373 in 1417H / 1997G at an annual compounded growth rate of 2%.

Physicians, number-wise, were mostly employed by MOH in all years under analysis. Their number was 14,554 and 14,717 in the first and last year respectively. However, as a percentage of total physicians employed, other governmental institutions came foremost employing Saudis in 32.4% of total physicians posts in 1413H / 1993G, increased to 38.4% in 1417H / 1997G. Private sector was always the lowest, both number and percentage-wise, employing 8,135 (2.3%) in the first year and 8,891 (3.3%) in the last one.

Data reveal clear shortage in Saudi nurses with lowest Saudi percentages among all health personnel categories. Notwithstanding, gradual improvements in Saudi contribution led to its increase from 11% in 1413H / 1993G to 17.1% in 1417H /

1997G. Distribution of Saudi nurses was always in favor of MOH's institutions at the expense of private ones. Saudi nurses in MOH were 33,373 (15.8% of total) in the first year under analysis growing to 34,739 (23.9%) in the last year, while in private sector they were 11,232 (0.4% of the total) went down to 10,800 (0.9%). In the middle, there has been growing contribution in other governmental institutions as number ascended from 12,485 (8.6% of total) to 14,447 (13.5%).

The most fruitful results of Saudisation are quite clear with respect to allied health personnel, as almost half of personnel in that category in MOH institutions in 1417H / 1997G were Saudis. Saudi percentages in all health sectors improved from 35.4% in 1413H / 1993G to 37.7% in 1417H / 1997G.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL STAFF

Health and medical education in the Kingdom is provided through three educational institutions; Health Institutes, Health Sciences Colleges (the two are supervised by MOH) and University Medical and Health Colleges.

HEALTH INSTITUTES

In 1417H / 1997G, MOH operated 22 health institutes: 12 for boys and 10 for girls. Number of health institutes shrank 50%, as it was 44 in 1416H / 1996G. 18 for boys and 26 for girls. It is worthwhile mentioning that number of institutes for girls has a downtrend since 1414H / 1994G, as indicated in **Table 5-4**. Additionally, number of male and female students and graduates all declined over a 5 years period (1413H / 1993G – 1417H / 1997G). Number of students declined at an annual rate of -8.66% versus -24.64% for graduates (see **Table 5-5**). MOH's policy to diminish this type of health education is evidenced by stopping new enrollment in an increasing number of institutes. For girls, new enrollment was accepted only in 6 regions: Taif, Madinah, Eastern Province, Al-Ahsa, Hail and Al-Jouf, as per 1997 data. MOH's squeezing policy could be attributed to the low

level of provided education and training and / or low preference of enrolment from Saudi students' side.

Table 5-4
Number of Health Institute (Male & Female)
1413-1417H (1993 to 1997)

Gender/ Total	Year				
	1413-H 1993	1414-H 1994	1415-H 1995	1416-H 1996	1417-H 1997*
Males	18	18	18	18	12
Females	29	27	26	26	10
Total	47	45	44	44	22

* 50% of Health Institute Converted to Health Colleges.

Source: Annual Health Report of 1997, Ministry of Health, K.S.A.

Table 5-5
Students, Graduates and New Enrolled in Health Institutes (All Region)
Males and Females in MOH, 1413-1417-H (1993 - 1997)

	1413-H(1993)		1414-H(1994)		1415-H(1995)		1416-H(1996)		1417-H(1997)		New Enrolled
	Stu.	Gradu.	Stu.	Gradu.*	Stu.	Gradu.	Stu.	Gradu.	Stu.	Gradu.	
Male	3,169	899	2,806		3,028	798	2,661	1,240	1,699	1,394	305
Female	2,798	556	1,802		1,812	499	1,405	729	783	664	119
Total	5,967	1,455	4,608		4,840	1,297	4,066	1,969	2,482	2,058	424

* No Graduates for 1994

Source: Annual Health Report of 1997, Ministry of Health, K.S.A.

Colleges of Health Sciences

Total number of colleges was 13 in 1417H / 1997G, 7 for boys and 6 for girls. Number of male and female students enrolled and graduates for the year 1417H / 1997G are shown in Table 5-6. It indicates the relative small size of these colleges especially for girls with a 99 average number of students per college that was slightly greater than one-half times the average for boys. Total number of students enrolled was 1,881 students, 68% constituting boys. There were graduates in six colleges only as this type of health education initially started in 1415H / 1995G by inaugurating three colleges for boys and same number for girls with study duration of 2 years (extended later to 3 years).

Specialties include General Nursing, Dentistry, Medical Records, Physiotherapy, Secretarial Work, Scanning, Community Health (for Boys only) and Obstetrics (for girls only).

Table 5-6
Students Enrolled in Colleges of Health Science
Male & Female in MOH 1417-H (1997)

College of Health Sciences	Male		Female		Total	
	Students	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students	Graduates
Riyadh	227	51	137	33	364	84
Jeddah	190	0	197	46	387	46
Dammam	214	63	72	12	286	75
Abha	185	83	72	0	257	83
Makkah	0	0	83	0	83	0
Al-Rass	156	0	0	0	156	0
Jizan	154	0	0	0	154	0
Al-Hafuf	162	0	0	0	162	0
Unaza	0	0	32	0	32	0
TOTAL	1288	197	593	91	1881	288

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Source: 1997 Ministry of Health Annual Report

University Medical and Health Colleges

There are 13 university medical and health colleges in the Kingdom: 4 Medicine, 2 Dentistry, 1 Pharmacy, 3 Applied Sciences, 1 Technology of Laboratories and 2 Nursing. Total number of students in all colleges in 1417H / 1997G was 6,510 that were 99% Saudis and 61% males. Number of students in university of medical and health colleges is shown in Table 5-7.

Table 5-7
Students in University Medical and Health Colleges
1417-H (1997)

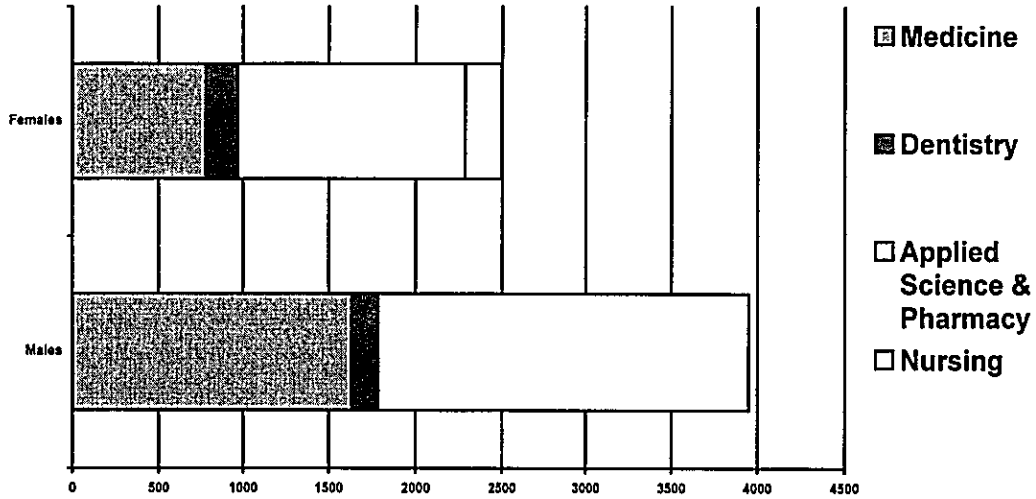
College	Saudi		
	Male	Female	Total
Medicine, King Saud U., Riyadh	198	72	270
Medicine, King Saud U., Abha	336	-	336
Medicine, King Abdul Aziz U.	664	406	1,070
Medicine, King Faisal U.	435	304	739
Sub-total	1,633	782	2,415
Dentistry, King Saud U.	54	48	102
Dentistry, King Abdul Aziz U.	98	138	236
Sub-total	152	186	338
Pharmacy, King Saud U.	886	450	1,336
Applied Science, King Saud U.	881	783	1,664
Applied Science, Umm Al-Qura U.	286	-	286
Applied Science, King Abdul Aziz U.	113	-	113
Tech. Laboratory, King Faisal U.	-	79	79
Sub-total	2,166	1,312	3,478
Nurse, King Abdul Aziz U.	-	123	123
Nurse, King Faisal U.	-	92	92
Sub-total	-	215	215
Total	3,951	2,495	6,446
Total Non-Saudi	24	88	64
% of Non-Saudi	0.6%	3.5%	1.0%
Grand Total	3,975	2,583	6,510

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Source: Annual Health Report 1997, Ministry of Health K.S.A

Chart 5-7

Distribution of Saudi Students in University Medical and Health Colleges, 1997G



It is indicated from **Table 5-7** and **Chart 5-7** that slightly greater than half of both male and female students were enrolled in Applied Science Colleges including Pharmacy. There is only one college of Applied Science for girls in King Saud University in Riyadh, which is the largest college for girls, revealing girls' preference for that college.

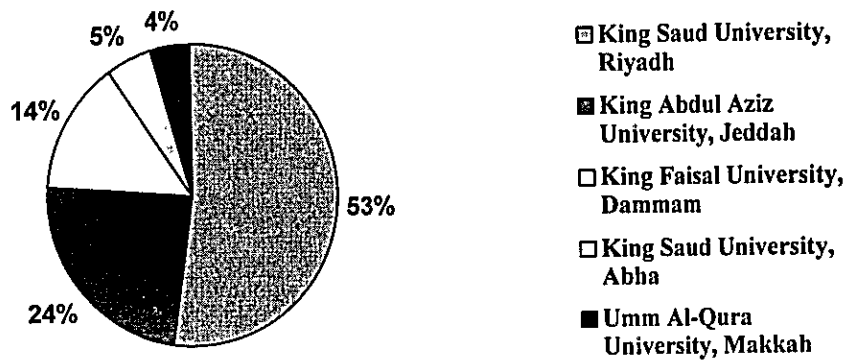
There are 2 Nursing Colleges for girls only but we believe that Nursing Colleges are also needed for boys to provide Saudi qualified male nurses. Provision and expansion of male nursing is required in Saudi Arabia for Islamic and social traditions. It is worth noting in this respect that number of Saudi male nurses in MOH and other governmental sector in 1417H / 1997G was 5,302 nurses, compared to 6,101 expatriate male nurses, which together constitute 22% of total nurse manpower in these two health sectors.

Regional and university distribution of medical and health colleges is shown in **Chart 5-8**. Largest contributor of university medical and health education is University of King Saud in Riyadh with its 4 colleges for boys and same number for girls. The latter university has more than half the number of medical and health students (53%),

followed by King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah having 24% of students. King Faisal University came in next at a percentage of 14% leaving the rest for King Saud University in Abha (5%) and Umm Al-Qura University in Makkah (4%). We believe that lack of university medical and health education in some regions could be covered through establishing private universities. For example, Jeddah in specific and Western Region in general, with their large population and relative importance, lack colleges of pharmacy for boys and girls and applied sciences for girls.

Chart 5-8

Regional & University Distribution of Medical & Health Education



Section 6

**REGULATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE
SYSTEM**

Section 6

REGULATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION COMPANIES

Licensing for private hospitals falls under responsibility of Ministry of Health. Hospitals management and operation companies obtain their license from Ministry of Commerce.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Licensing for private health technical educational colleges or institutes is not yet clearly established. It may fall under responsibilities of the following state agencies:

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- General Organization for Technical Education and Vocational Training (GOTEVOT)
- Civil Service Bureau

Licensing for private universities is under responsibility of Ministry of Higher Education.

Accreditation of higher medical and health education programs is under sole jurisdiction of the **Saudi Council for Health Specialties**. Public or private universities wishing to offer such programs are required to obtain such accreditation. This involves submitting detailed description of programs and course offerings.

