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PhD Dissertation Defense

Entitled

*FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: DEVELOPMENT OF A
COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES*

by

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Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

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Abstract

Family, school and community educational partnerships (FSCEPs) contribute significantly to the development and growth of students. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), this has not received due consideration. This study aimed to evaluate current FSCEPs practices and develop a comprehensive, culturally appropriate program for the UAE. A three-phase mixed method design was used: exploratory sequential design phase, developmental phase using the Delphi Method, and a pilot to test the proposed model. Structured and semi-structured interviews, observation and case study surveys were used to investigate current FSCEPs implementation; barriers and opportunities influencing practices and partnerships, and recommendations from participants. Data was collected from a collective case study of 15 schools and 891 survey responses. Initial results indicated FSCEPs in schools primarily focused on parental involvement; community involvement was limited. The developmental phase demonstrated four elements for successful FSCEPs programs: a steering team, a bottom-up approach to planning, a gamification framework, and continuous evaluation. Based on these factors, FSCEPs programs were created and piloted. The pilot study established the importance of assigning a program coordinator to ensure its sustainability and building FSCEPs school programs around students' individual plans encourages more parental involvement. Limitations to the evaluation and implementation of these practices exist; future feasibility studies are recommended to evaluate their implementation and long-term impact on the learning potential of students.

Keywords: Family, school community educational partnerships, parental involvement, community involvement, program development, program evaluation.