

**HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING**

## **Social Sustainability And The UAE Are Synonymous**

455 words

I like balance, admire symmetry and am alert to what fits - quick to spot the things that go hand-in-hand, like the United Arab Emirates and Social Sustainability, and Social Sustainability and Vision 2021, the UAE's strategic initiative to foster a cohesive, sustainable and prosperous society.

Hypothetically speaking, it is June 2021, and the commitment by every UAE resident to ensure the provision of today's societal needs for tomorrow's generations is now ingrained in our common culture.

We appreciate that for Social Sustainability to be a living thing, the incumbent generation – you and me – must acknowledge a joint responsibility ensuring the foundations of our society are enjoyed, cared for and passed on in the same or better shape.

Every day, we are mind-full and heart-led as we foster a collective spirit of inclusive collaborative care.

We appreciate our similarities and differences being a unique strength of our great nation; a nation that comfortably fuses the nuances of Diaspora – the range of cultural communities that comprise the UAE.

In unity, we each contribute to the UAE's greatness by working hard in our individual role to feed the nation's economic ebb and flow, as our Government delivers societal

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in the words of  
BADR AL-OLAMA**

needs, across premium healthcare, transportation, housing, recreation, employment, and education.

Together, we work to ensure a balanced and respectful quality of life for everyone who makes up the UAE.

“The road to a better future begins at school,” His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum reminds us, and we listen.

As a nation, we know that it is vital to provide a sterling education to nurture our young to become global citizens.

We are aware of the proven link between the standard of a country’s education and its economic performance.

We are alert to the fact that unemployment is shown to be lower in countries where early learning is widely supported and experienced by the adult population than in those where it is not readily available, and this is reflected in the UAE’s unemployment ratio, which is amongst the lowest in the world.

Hypothetically speaking, the reality is that the UAE is proving its allegiance to Social Sustainability by backing the provision of an early years’ education to all, and Bidayaat’s touch points have extended to each of the seven Emirates, committed to fostering the development of the nation’s children.

We are a nation where every three-year old is treated to 12 hours of funded professional pre-school education a month, for it is during the early learning years that we can each help each other to grow – and thus perform - to our full potential.

In 2021, this young generation of children in the UAE will become drivers of change, ensuring Social Sustainability is a reality for all.

**ENDS**