

5. Feedback from those responsible for teaching the deaf in the Al-Qaseem region

1) The opinion of the assistant to the Director of Education for Educational Affairs (formerly head of the Amal Institute):

From my colleagues' experiment in SignWriting, I see that in principle, within a short stretch of time, results were achieved above and beyond what was expected. This implies that the experiment should be extended to other, different environments. This is a scholarly experiment which it is to be expected will achieve specific educational objectives for this group of students when it is undertaken by such committed participants as our colleagues here, under the leadership of Muhammad Abu Sha'eera.

Suleiman Ash-Shayi'

2) Opinion of the director of the Amal Institute for the Deaf

SignWriting is a modern method for teaching deaf students. As I followed the progress of this experiment, I noticed the speed with which the students responded to questions and their engagement with this method, in spite of the short time in which the experiment was run. I hope that the experiment will be supported, and become a way for communicating concepts to this important group.

'Omar Al-Amr

3) The opinion of the supervisor for hearing impediments

In the Name of God, and peace and prayers be upon the prophet of God and his family and companions:

From my point of view, as someone concerned with hearing impediments, I view the idea of SignWriting as a new, wonderful and important method for teaching deaf students. After seeing the work carried out by Muhammad Abu Sha'eera, it is evident to me that the method is acceptable to a majority of students and teachers, and I consider it to be a useful means of helping deaf students to understand lessons. The evidence for this is the assimilation of the method by a majority of students. However, the training for the teachers needs to be intensified, and it quickly needs to be generalised throughout the Amal programme in order to

extend its usefulness. Finally, I would like to thank those involved in carrying out the experiment.

Ahmad Al-Musallam

4. Opinion of the supervisor of the Amal classes at Al-Fatah school  
SignWriting was the subject of this experiment. It is a specific method for communicating information to the student in the way closest possible to his understanding, through the sign he uses in everyday life. Through direct contact with this experiment, the extent of the capacity of deaf students to respond to questions with this method of writing and communicating information became evident, as well as the speed of the students in retrieving information and retaining it.

Abdel Aziz Al-Nahed

6. Opinion of the supervisor of the Amal classes at Al-Harameen school  
Teaching deaf students using this method is in my opinion successful, given the speed at which they were able to manage information and their ease of breaking down its symbols. Using the normal methods, deaf students used to be unable to understand most of the words of the texts they were shown, but now we notice a big difference. This method should be supported and generalised.

Za'ar Al-Jamili

#### 5. Recommendations

Following this experiment, I hope that the Secretary General will begin to gradually include SignWriting in the curriculum for deaf students in the forthcoming period at certain levels of education, as the method is neither difficult nor costly, when one considers its general effectiveness and usefulness.

6. This is the limit of my efforts; I pass the flame on to those responsible for special education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and my hope is in the Great God that their hearts will be open to accept and apply this idea. I say to them that this new method

will reach us sooner or later, so let us seize the opportunity to become the first to bring this method into our country, since God willing it will bring us remembrance and recompense.

#### 7. Suggestions for the modalities of generalizing the method

The proposition - which is in your hands - is to create a special centre with the aim of generalising the method through the following steps:

1. Training teachers in SignWriting and training older deaf students who are outside of formal education; symbolic drawings can be made to help in covering any gaps.
2. Translating the curriculum into SignWriting and providing this to students and teachers
3. Holding an introductory seminar (or seminars) on the method
4. Training a group of female teachers who teach deaf female students in order to transfer the method to them
5. Communicating with centres and associations for the deaf locally, in the Gulf, and in the Arab world, in order to spread the method
6. Communicate with the American centre which is the leader in the subject, getting to know its way of working and adopting any suitable practices

Notes:

Attached:

1. A number of photographs
2. A questionnaire prepared on the training workshop
3. An example of the test for class 6
4. An example of the test for class 4
5. An example of the test for Middle 1

*Completed, by the permission of God, on Sunday 15.2.1423 AH, 27.4.2002 AD*

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