



*Thesis
Title:*

**BQA SCHOOL REVIEWS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON PARENTAL
AWARENESS, CHOICE AND GOVERNING ROLE IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS
IN BAHRAIN**

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Abstract

The Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) was established in 2008 as a part of the education reform initiatives. It is an independent organisation assuring quality in both educational and training sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain. As a part of its mandate, the BQA's reviews and reports follow up on the performance of all private schools in Bahrain. The involvement of stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, private schools and public, is essential in achieving the desired improvement in education and training. Parents are one of the key stakeholders who benefit from the information on school performance through published reports; they can contribute to BQA reviews through their opinions of and influence on schools. After completing almost two cycles of reviews of private schools, it is important to examine the impact of BQA reviews on parents. This thesis focuses on the influence of BQA efforts and processes on raising parental awareness of the education quality expectations from schools and how their awareness of BQA judgements and quality expectations affects their choice of schools for their children. This thesis also examines the influence of parental involvement in the review process and their benefit from BQA reports on governing their children's school performance through monitoring and holding these schools accountable for their provision and performance. It represents the views of parents whose children are enrolled in different private schools in Bahrain that offer both National and Foreign curricula and were given different judgements in the reviews conducted by the BQA. The data obtained from 361 online questionnaires and 40 interviews was analysed. The findings indicate that although parents are well aware of the BQA reviews and judgements and regard them as important for the improvement of school performance, the influence of these reviews on their choice of private school for their children varies greatly due to other limiting factors, such as finances and availability of seats in other schools. Therefore, the influence of the BQA reviews on parents' governing role is limited due to the lack of comprehension and guidance in making them realise their importance in holding schools accountable for performance.

Keywords: Quality assurance, Parental awareness, Parental choice, School governance and accountability, Parental involvement