



مركز الشارقة
لصعوبات التعلم
Sharjah Center for
Learning Difficulties



Annual Report

2021-2020





“ Sharjah’s Development efforts to provide a stable life and decent living for citizens are constant ”

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi

Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah
May Allah protect him





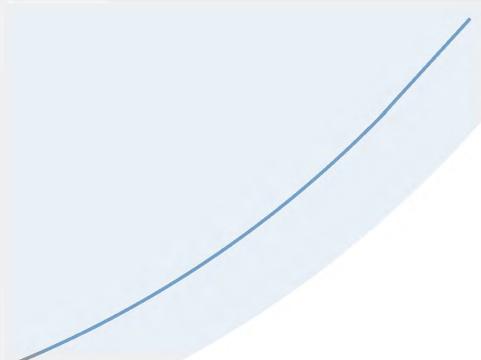
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“ We will continue to support you ”

On August 2016 ,1, an Emiri decree was issued establishing the Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties (SCLD), almost five years before this year's report. The decree was a new step towards realizing the vision of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah - may God protect him - to improve educational opportunities regardless of students' abilities and differences, and to integrate them all in different educational institutions and levels.

Since the decision was made, we have taken on the responsibility of transforming this vision into an institution that in a short period of time has been able to carve out a place for itself in the educational scene of the UAE, and even in the Gulf and Arab scene. This was achieved despite all the challenges that the center faced. The most difficult of these challenges was to continue to provide services and support to all students during the pandemic that the world experienced in the last two years, and to deal with all the precautionary measures that were taken which would have hindered some progress. However, the SCLD team's firm belief in the importance of the Center's role and the impact of its services on students' lives made the Center's journey a model for educational and specialized institutions to work under various circumstances.

The success of this short journey is first and foremost a great blessing of God Almighty, and then comes the role of all supporters and advocates of the cause of education, to whom we express our gratitude and appreciation for their financial or logistical support that has allowed the services to continue at the best level and to reach all those who deserve it. Once again, we express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to them.

This motivates us again and again to open our hands wide and invite all institutions and members of the local community to establish more partnerships, to share knowledge and benefit from it, and to work together to open new horizons of community partnership in order to fulfil our mission, which is to ensure a decent life and better inclusion of people with learning difficulties in their communities.

Jameela bint Mohammed Al Qasimi

Chairperson of Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services



“ Awareness Increases ”

Five years have passed with all the great efforts and outstanding achievements that Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties (SCLD) has made since its establishment in 2016 by Emiri Decree No. (49) of 2016. In the jubilee classifications, the fifth anniversary is considered a wooden jubilee, which symbolizes access to strength and wisdom. The fifth anniversary of the center is an indication of the solid relationship between the center and its customers which the center has established by building trust and understanding the needs of all beneficiaries of our services, including students, parents, teachers and even the local community.

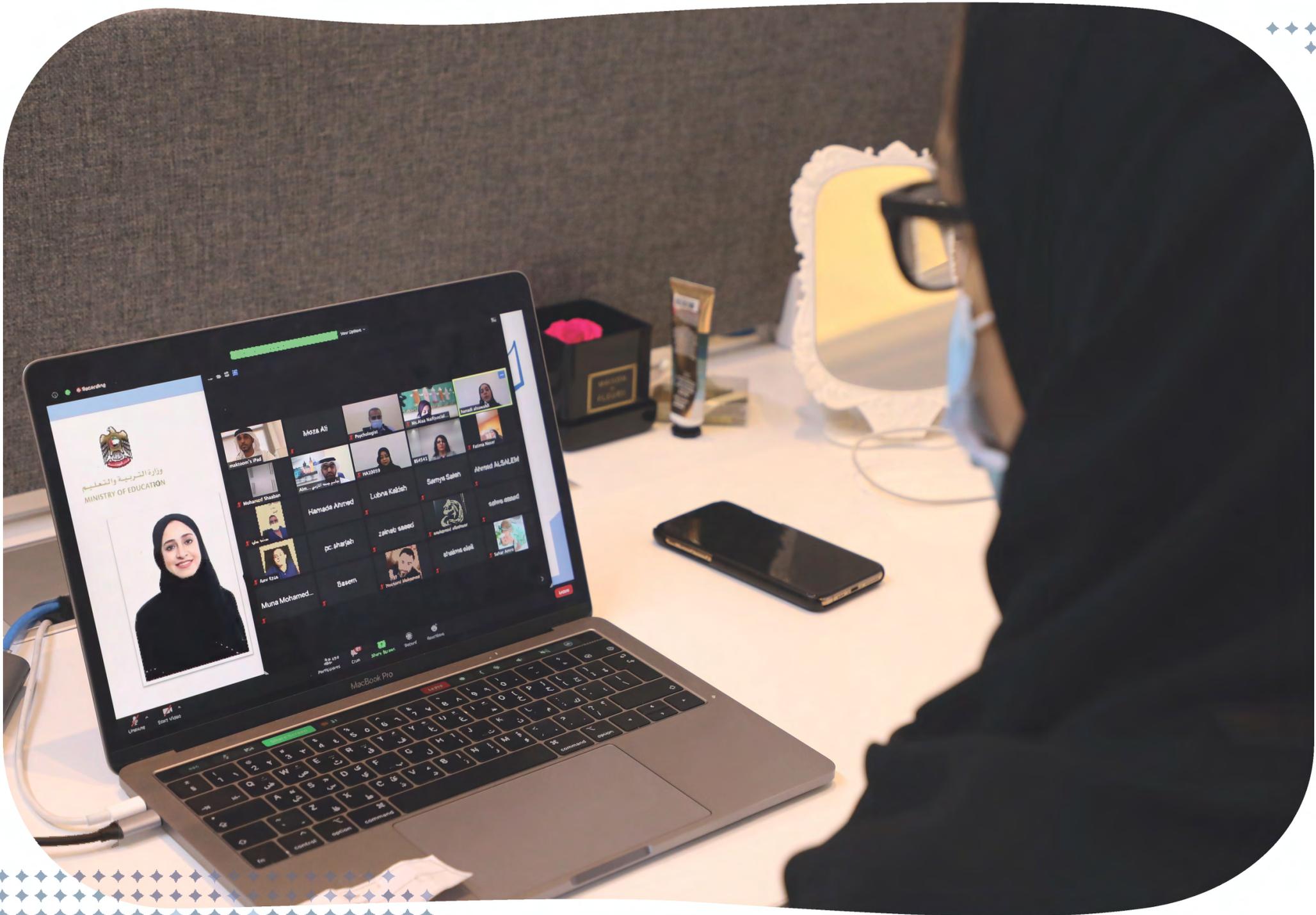
When we talk about strength of the relationships, we must at the beginning of this annual report for the academic year 2021-2020 mention the strength of SCLD staff in overcoming various challenges, perhaps the most difficult of which was to provide new forms of services as much as possible using modern communication technologies, given what the world has been dealing with due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This demonstrated the team's diverse abilities to deal with new circumstances and its ability to communicate with great flexibility and acceptance, to understand concerns and circumstances, and to find solutions.

The continued support of our partners has made us more confident for the future in deepening partnerships and opening new horizons for the realization and implementation of joint projects aimed at raising the level of services offered and broadening community awareness. This promotes the inclusion of people with learning difficulties and empowers them more, ensuring that they have access to real opportunities to shape their future and activate their role in the development of their societies.

Dr. Hanadi Al Suwaidi

Director of Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties





About Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties



Our Vision

To be the leading center in Advocacy, Inclusion, and Empowerment of persons with learning difficulties in the UAE and the Arab World.



Incorporation

Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties was established to the Emiri Decree No. 49 of 2016 issued by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah on the first of August 2016, to operate under the supervision and under the umbrella of Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services (SCHS) to provide services to the group of people with learning difficulties of all ages, and from both genders, for all nationalities within the UAE, and which enjoys the legal personality and the legal capacity as well as financial and administrative independence.





Our Goals

- To create awareness in society about learning difficulties.
- To provide the state of the art learning technologies to facilitate challenges faced by people with learning difficulties and their families.
- To utilize international best practices in the field by providing professional development to educators.
- To provide alternative inclusive education for people with learning difficulties, that will enable them to be included in the educational system.

Our Mission



To guarantee a decent life for people with learning difficulties through: diagnosis and early intervention programs and family and career counseling, and to propose appropriate specialized individual educational programs and interventions. To provide training and educational, social, and psychological counseling for people with learning difficulties. To support educational institutions, and train specialized cadres in the education field. To promote awareness of learning difficulties and respect of individual differences as well as enable talented people with learning difficulties to reach maximum success.

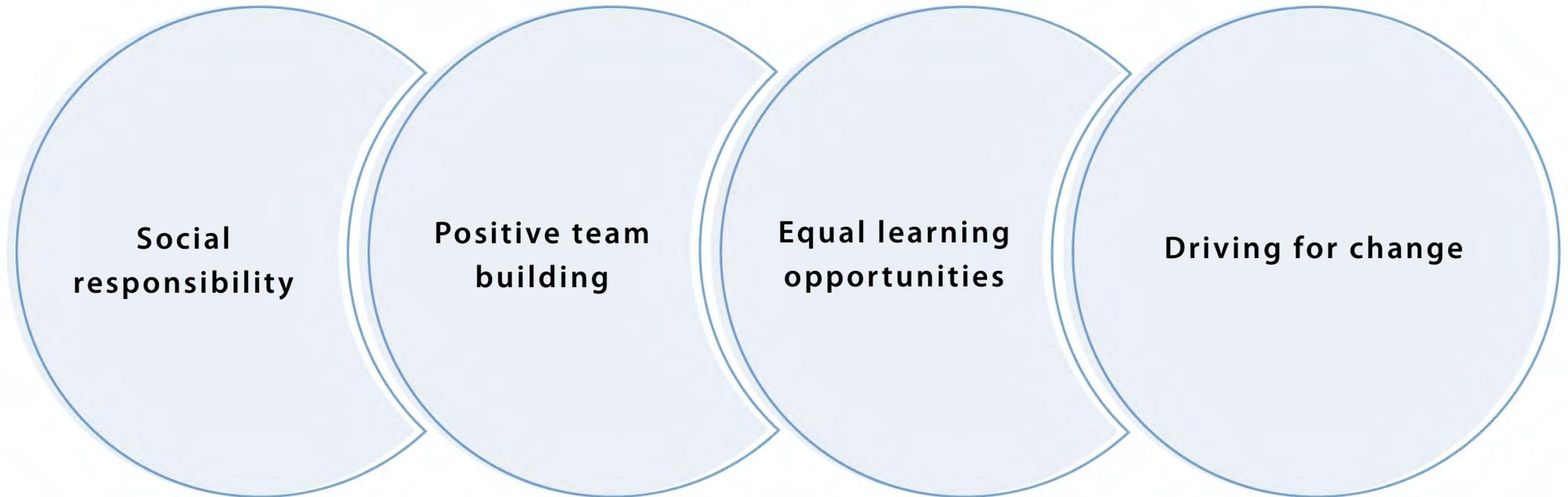




Our slogan

“ We are your advocates to education ”

Our values



Our services



Diagnosing and assessing learning difficulties cases



Provide consultations to institutions and individuals



Supervise and monitor the progress of the educational process for the students in the center



Training specialized cadres in the education field



Assistive Technology Services



Self-advocacy programs



Social and psychological support programs



Screening Awareness Programs



Occupational counseling and support



Speech-Language Therapy Services



Family counseling

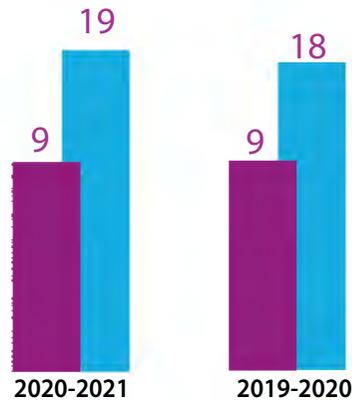


Career advice and support



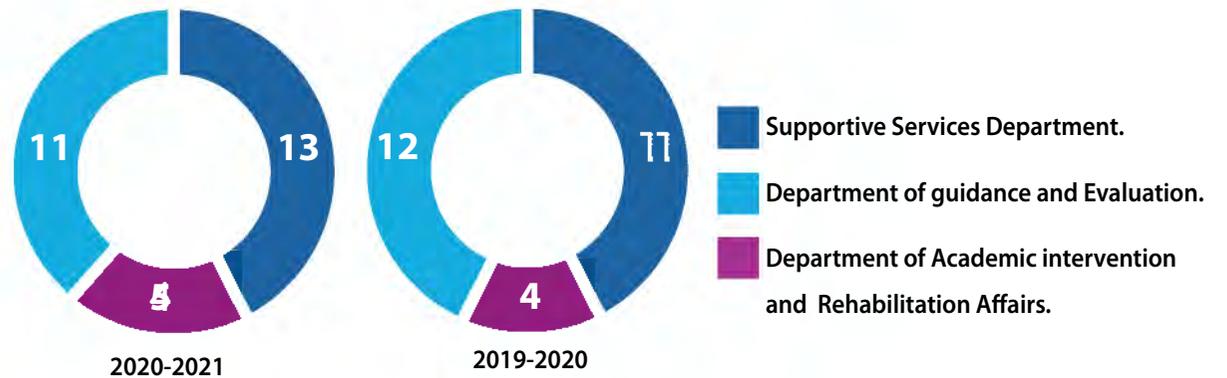
Human Cadres

Area	Strategic Goal	Operational initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality and development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the efficiency of the staff in accordance with the best internationally approved standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing employment rates at different job levels / job categories.



A comparison of genders recruitment in the center during the two years.

Male ■ Female ■



2019-2020	15 specialists	12 administrative staff
2020-2021	15 specialists	13 administrative staff

Number of employees during last two years.

2019-2020	27 employees	10 Nationals	17 other nationalities
2020-2021	28 employees	10 Nationals	18 other nationalities

Number of employees during last two years.

Developmental and Functional Programs



Area	Strategic Goal	Operational initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality and development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising the efficiency of the staff in accordance with the best internationally approved standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising work efficiency, organizing technical work, and increasing employee expertise in various fields by providing training programs to serve the center's specialists. Coordination with the HR Department in the Government of Sharjah to organize and implement free training courses for government employees to develop and qualify the center's employees.

The center's employees attend external training courses to develop their skills the number of which is (62) with approximately two programs per employee.



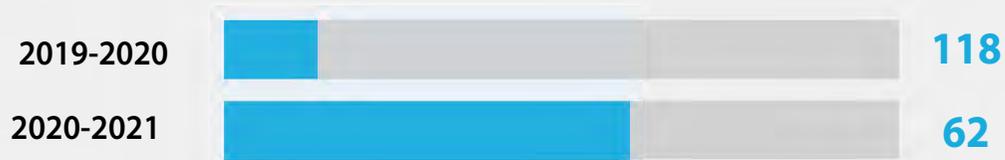
Career Development Program – Specialists

39 courses



Career Development Program - Administrators

23 courses

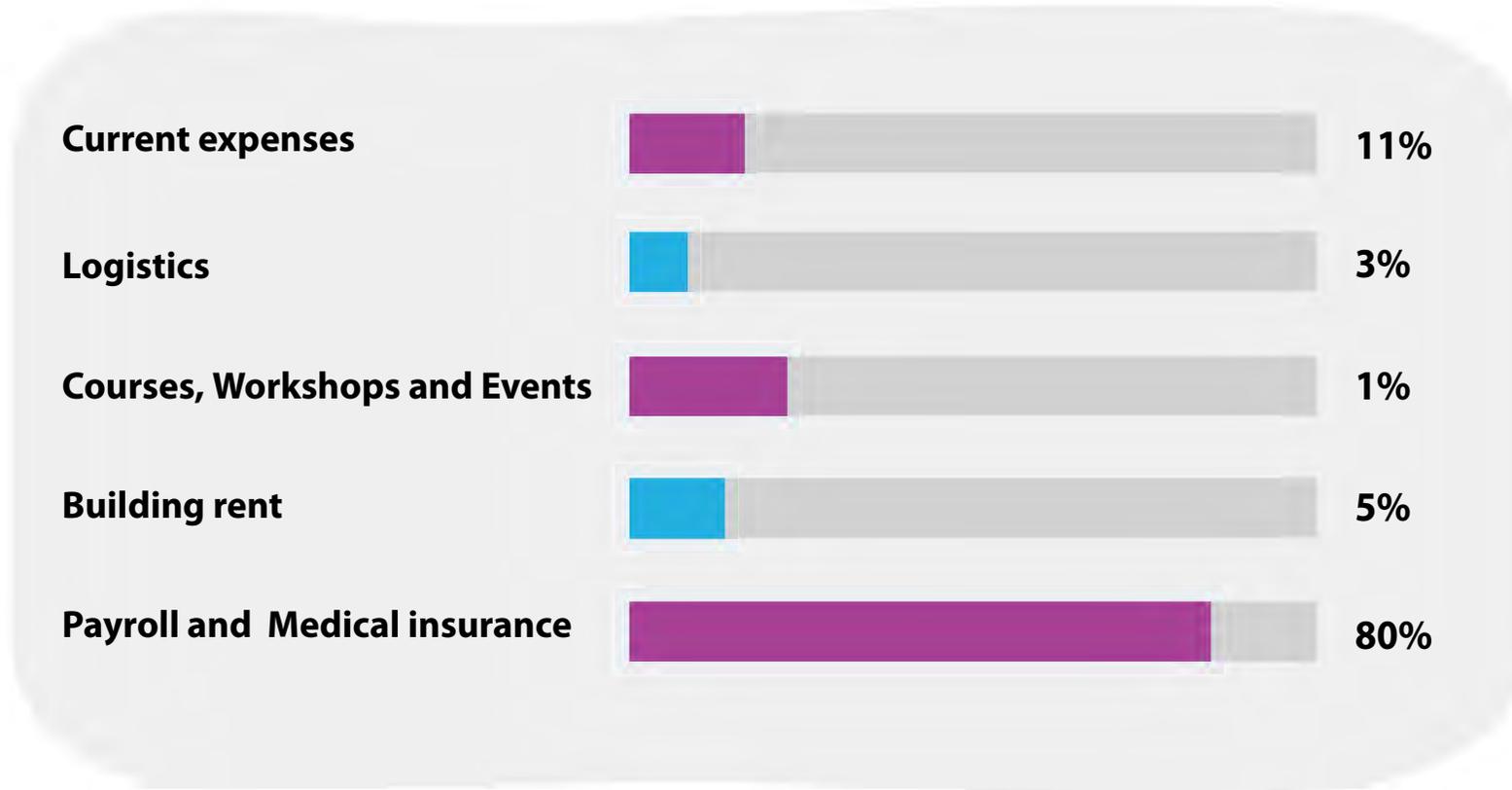


The graph shows a comparison of the attendance of the center's employees for training.

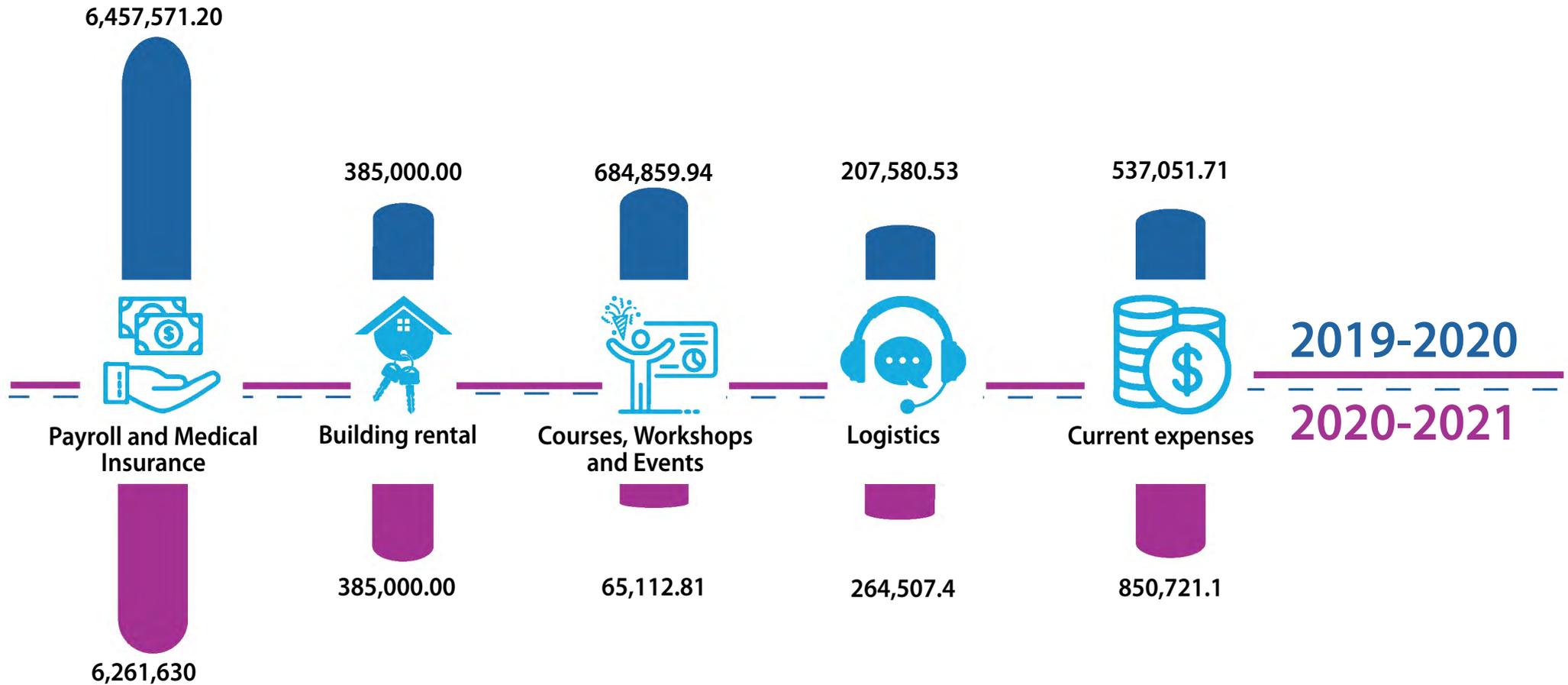


SCLD expenses during the Academic year 2021-2020

Actual expenses for the center during the year amounted to AED 7,826,972.30. Therefore, the chart below shows the percentage of expenses based on the items.



Comparison of statistics for the last two years



The above chart shows a comparison of expenses between the years 2019-2020 / 2020-2021 and as shown, there is difference in some items for the following reasons:

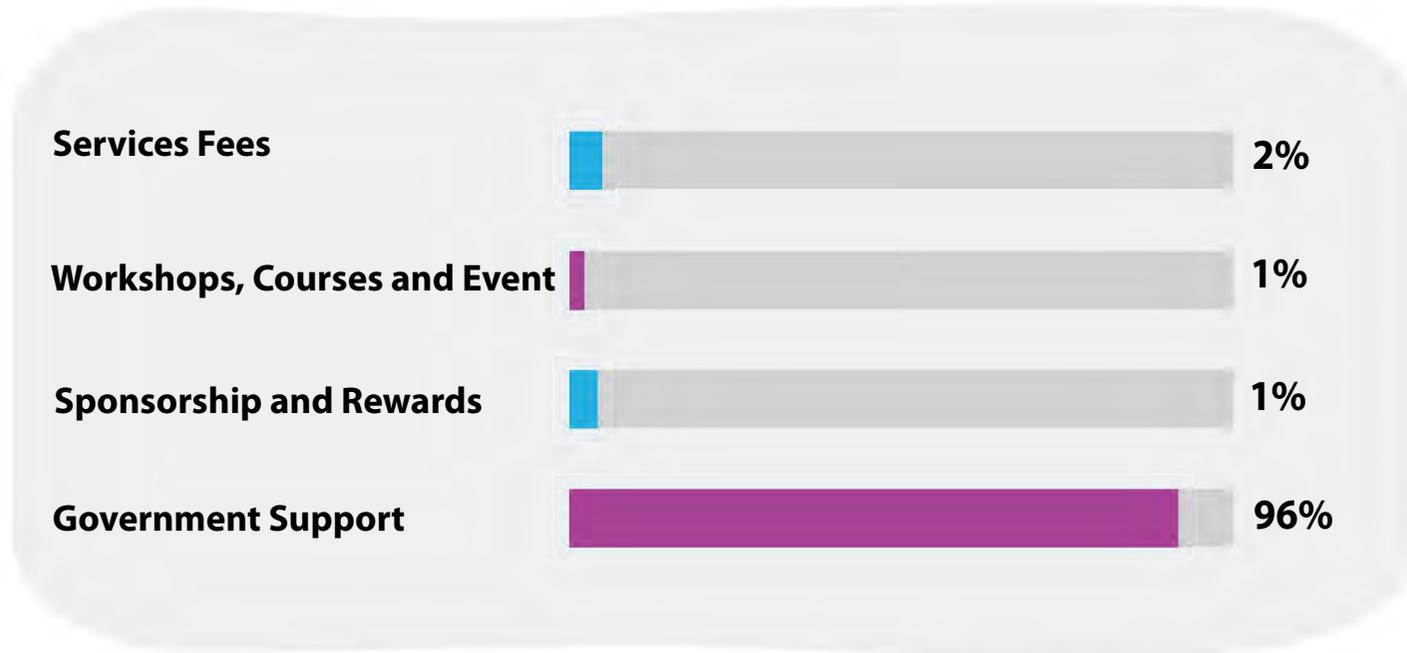
- Salaries and wages: A decrease due to transferring staff from SCLD to SCHS and hiring one national employee midyear.
- Courses and workshop activities: Decreasing events and workshops expenses by 90% during the year due to holding training events remotely.
- Current expenses: an increase of 27% due to paying maintenance outstanding amounts from previous year 2019-2020 in addition to new contracts.



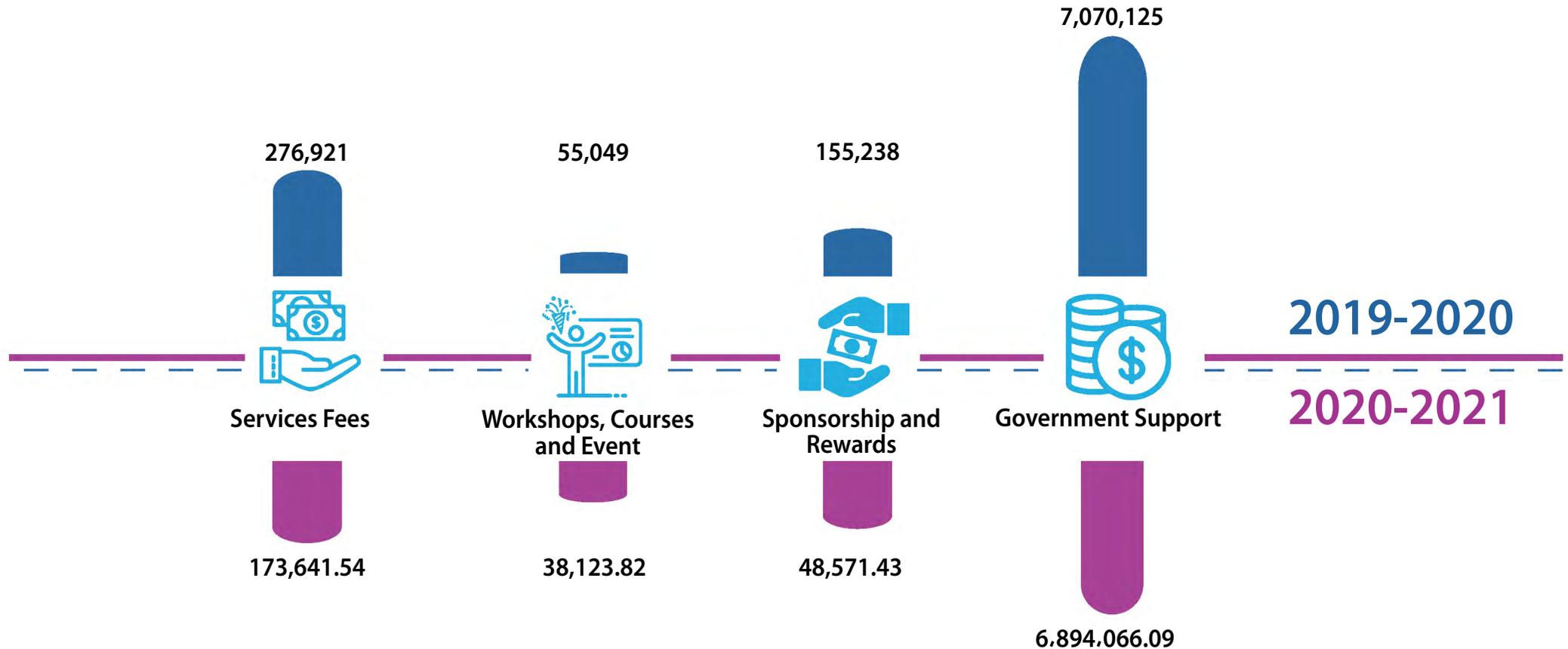
The center's revenues during the academic year 2020-2021

2020-2021

SCLD's revenues during the year amounted to 7,154,402.88 dirhams. The chart below shows the revenue ratio based on the items.



Comparison of statistics for the last two years



The above chart shows a comparison of revenues between the years 2019-2020 / 2020-2021, which explains the reasons for the decline in revenue during the year for the following reasons:

- Fees for center services: a decrease of 37% in revenues due to decline in new students during the year 2020/2021 compared to 2019-2020 as well as difficulty of providing face-to-face services due to the pandemic, in addition to decreasing session fees in support of parents and students during the pandemic.
- Workshops, Courses, and Events: Learning Difficulties Conference during the academic year 2019-2020 led to an increase in the revenues of the training activities, and its absence in the following year was a direct effect for the decrease in the revenues of this item.
- Sponsorships and rewards: The cancellation of some events and the reduction of expenses for the remaining activities during the pandemic period led to a sharp decrease in this item.



Training and awareness programs during the academic year 2019 - 2020

Training Programs

Area	Strategic Goal	Operational initiative
Sustainability.	Enhancing the positive mental image of the Center.	Providing lectures on learning difficulties.
Quality and development.	Raise the quality of services provided in accordance with best practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of national cadres in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.• Implementing a learning difficulties diploma for an external audience.• Providing specialized workshops and training programs in the field of learning difficulties.



- 19 training programs were conducted in the form of lectures, training courses, seminars, dialog and consultation sessions in collaboration with various parties as shown in the table below:



Total Services



436

Programs offered outside the center

Discussion session:

Learning and reading difficulties

Writer Sabah Dibi



125

Training course:

Emotional and social difficulties in children with learning difficulties

Social Services Department



32

Training course:

Introductory workshop on Irlen syndrome

Aleph Center



16

Discussion session:

Services, activities and programs for students with learning difficulties

Emirates Foundation for School Education, and the Ministry of Community Development



55

Discussion session:

Bullying

Child Safety Department



51

Discussion session:

Quality of education for people with learning difficulties Post-Covid-19.

Dr. Manal Al-Daihani and Dr. Hanadi Al-Suwaidi



64

Learning Difficulties Diploma :

Ajman University and Ajad Training Center



22

Training of national cadres:

3 training programs of 30 hours



25

Discussion session:

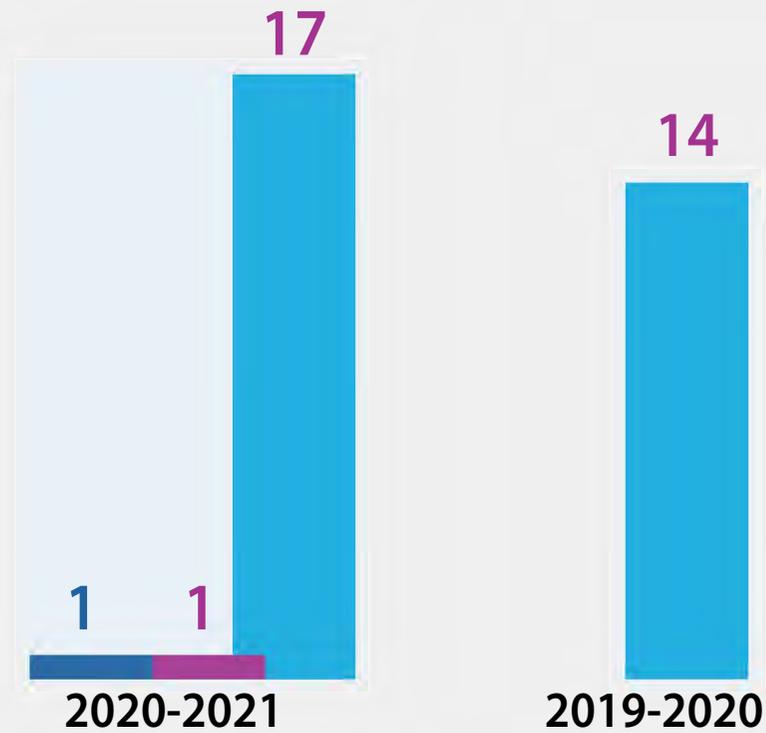
Learning difficulties in early childhood
Breastfeeding Friends Association



46

■ Name of the program ■ Organization ■ Number of Attendees

Comparison of statistics in the last two years



Learning difficulties diploma

Training of national cadres

Training course



مرحباً بكم متحف التاريخ

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أنعم الله على إمارة الشارقة بمناظر طبيعية خلابة مصحوبة
وسط سبع صالات عرض يضمها المتحف، تفضل باستكشاف
الشارقة الطبيعي الذي
رحلة بالبحر والبرية وحياة برية من الشرق إلى الغرب
التاريخي واحتل المفكرون والعلماء المسلمون
في علم الأحياء
حياة البرية تأقلم الحيوانات مع البيئات
التي تتغير من سنة إلى سنة في الإمارات
والتي تتغير من سنة إلى سنة في الإمارات
بمقايير تراوحت بين

المناظر القادمة
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Awareness Programs

Area	Strategic Goal	Operational initiative
Sustainability.	Enhancing the positive mental image of the Center.	Providing lectures on learning difficulties.
Social protection.	Creating a shift in attitudes and behaviors related to violence and abuse that people with learning difficulties may be exposed to.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conducting concentrated and focused sessions with the concerned groups to formulate positive concepts and contents that are capable of confronting the concepts and contents of harmful practices (bullying) leading to violence and abuse towards persons with learning difficulties. ● Executing targeted national media campaigns towards confronting violence and abuse against persons with learning difficulties.

Survey and Awareness Programs:

1.Training bag: How to manage the behavior of a pre-school child.

Target group: nurseries administrators and teachers.

In cooperation with the Sharjah Education Council

Attendance: 250  Trainees.

Number of hours: 75  Training hours.

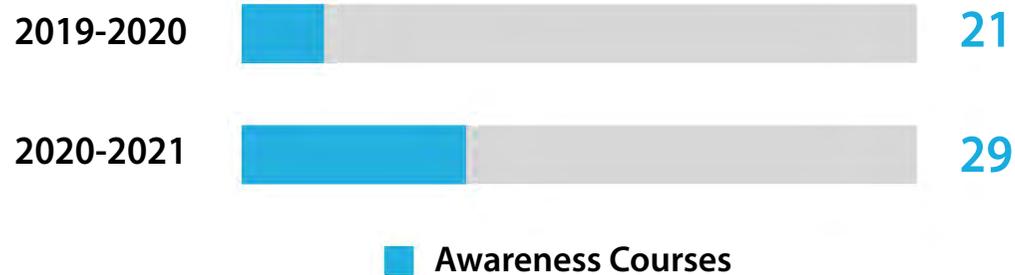




2.4 Awareness programs provided by the center's specialists for the public

145  **Total Attendance**


Awareness Courses	Description	Attendance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary screening and survey tools to identify gifted students with learning difficulties. 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop on the developmental survey program and how to implement it for children under six years 1. 	54
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop on the developmental survey program and how to implement it for children under six years 2. 	30
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop on the developmental survey program and how to implement it for children under six years 3. 	56



Services provided to students from 6 years and above

Area

Strategic Goal

Operational initiative

Quality and development.

Raising the quality of services provided in accordance with best practices.

- Providing services for those excluded from the category of people with learning difficulties and people with difficulties.
- Providing academic and rehabilitative sessions for the center's members.
- Provide assessment and diagnostic services.
- Providing psychological and social support services.
- Providing participatory services.

509  Total

2019-2020

	Family Interviews.	98 students
	Educational Psychological.	82 students
	Assessment.	130 students
	Integrative Diagnosis.	184 students
	Academic Service Recipients	15 parents
	Family Counseling.	

435  Total

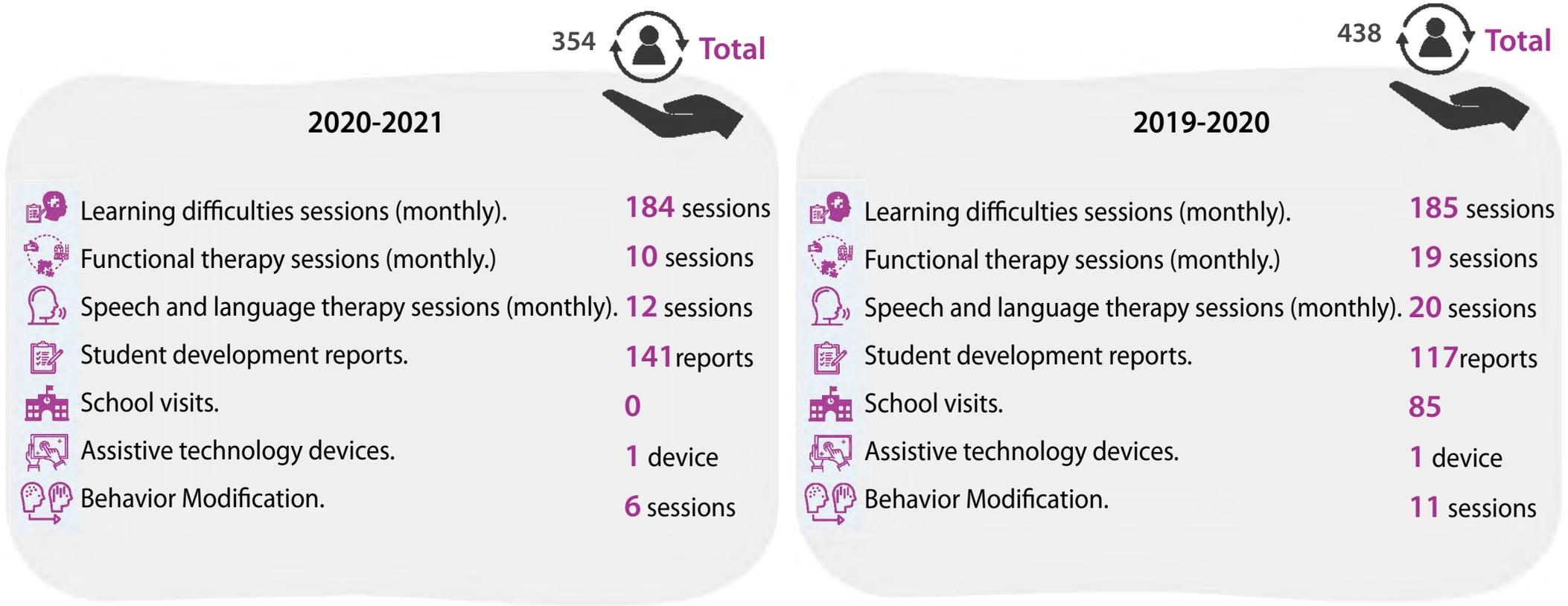
2020-2021

	Family Interviews.	67 students
	Educational Psychological.	48 students
	Assessment.	93 students
	Integrative Diagnosis.	217 students
	Academic Service Recipients	28 parents
	Family Counseling.	

The table above shows a comparison of services provided under the psychosocial assessment between the years 2019-2020 / 2020-2021, a decrease in the provision of some services for the following reasons:

- The Family Interview: COVID -19 pandemic and distance learning impacted the intake of new applications from schools.
- Psychological-educational assessment: Difficulty in completing the psychological-educational test online.
- Integrative diagnosis: Difficulty in applying the integrative diagnosis (learning difficulties - occupational therapy - speech and language) online.

Direct services provided to students



The table above shows a comparison of academic and rehabilitation services provided between the years 2019-2020 / 2020-2021, which shows a decrease in the provision of some services for the following reasons:

- Most cases of students attending sessions do not require speech and language sessions.
- The difficulty of providing sessions remotely for some cases.
- The difficulty of conducting the diagnostic and assessment process remotely for some cases.
- Developmental reports in terms of the number of students attending the sessions.
- Schools not allowing visits.
- The nature of behavior modification sessions for some student cases requires* direct and face-to-face sessions by a behavior modification specialist.



Events and Activities

Area	Strategic Goal	Operational initiative
Sustainability.	Enhancing the positive mental image of the Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing and promoting various events and activities.
	Promoting the culture of innovation and creativity in the core programs of the Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An exploration project for students with learning difficulties, face-to-face or virtual. Summer Camp. Learning Difficulties Forum sponsored by the Ministry of Education.

Summer Camp:



Type: Virtual

Cooperating entity: Sharjah Girl Guides

No. of participants: 13 

Project Discovery:



Type: Virtual

Cooperating entity: Sharjah Art Foundation - Beacon College

No. of participants: 18 

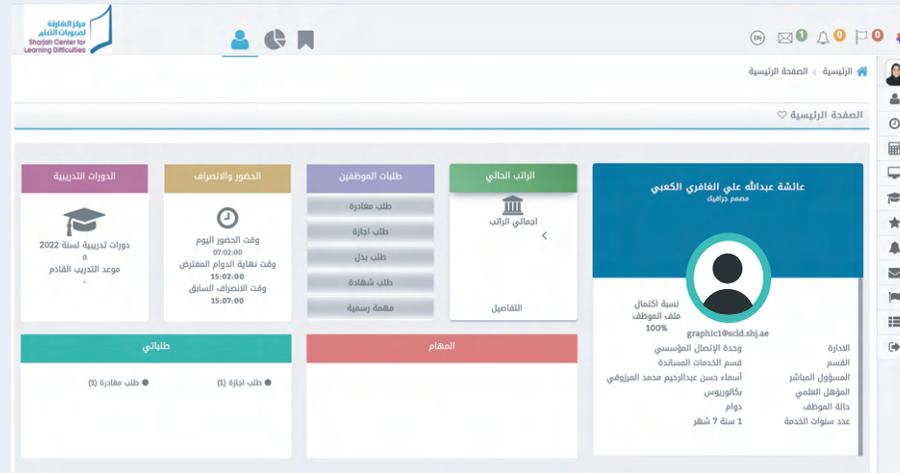
Achievements



1. Participation in the protection extension system for the General Pension and Social Security Authority (GPSSA).



2. Launching the general framework of policies and procedures to manage the behavior of children in government nurseries in cooperation with the Sharjah Education Council



3. Launching the Human Resources System

Learning Difficulties Forum



نلتقي و نرتقي بهم

We meet to live up to them

8th أكتوبر 2020
October 2020



Speakers: 6



Number of attendees: 1450



5 educational workshops



5 Themes

Objectives:

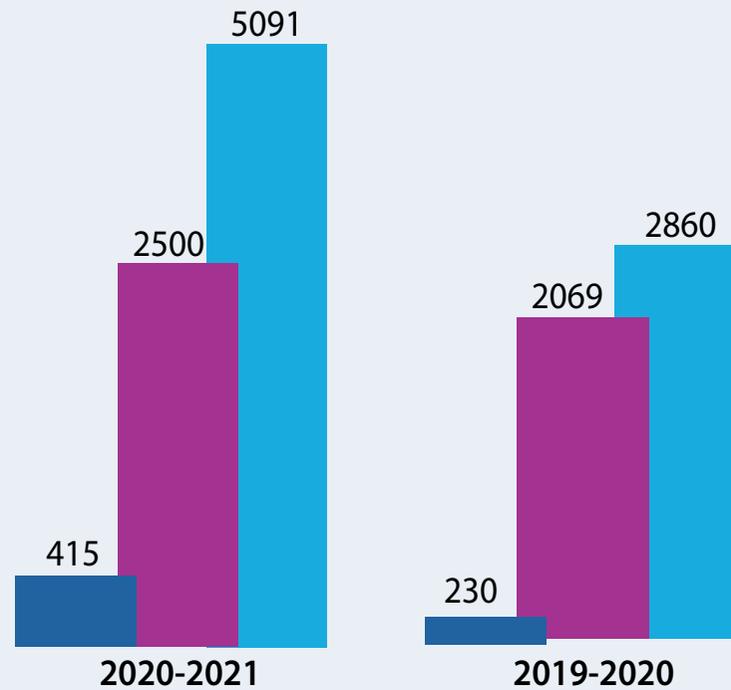
- Intensify efforts in the awareness-raising process in a systematic and practical manner

Sponsor:

- Ministry of Education

Statistics of the number of followers on social media

-  Facebook @shjcd 2500 followers
-  YouTube @shjcd 415 subscribers
-  Instagram @shjcd 5091 followers

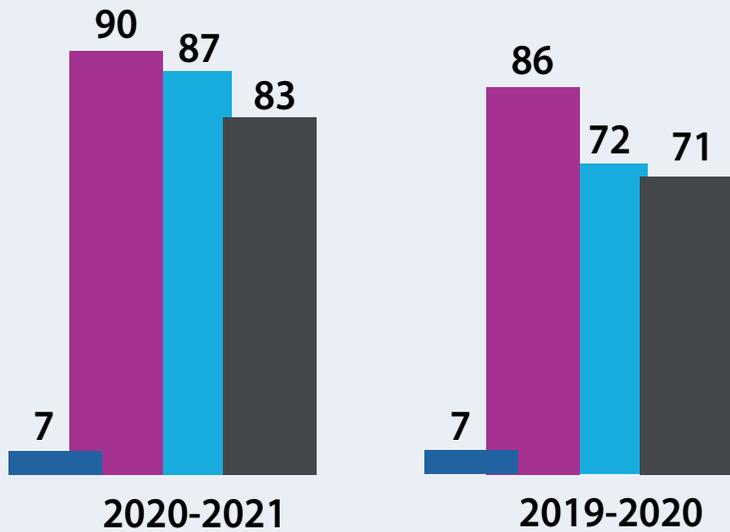


Number of followers of social networking sites during the year 2020-2021

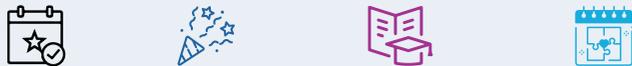


Statistics of the number of posts on social media

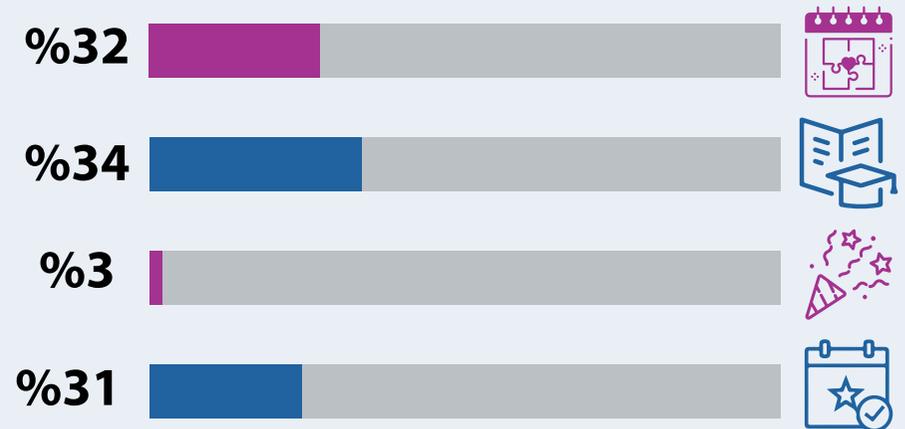
	Awareness	87
	Educational activities	90
	Festive activities	7
	Others	83



Comparison of statistics for the last two years



Percentage of posts per year 2020 - 2021





Agreements



Entity	Date
Sharjah Private Education Authority	21-06-2021
National Charity School	15-09-2021
Sharjah Education Council	20-08-2020
Age-Friendly commitment document	22-07-2020





Gratitude and Appreciation to All Supporters & Sponsors

The SCLD extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to all sponsors, partners, supporters, entities, and institutions for their constant support for the continuous journey of giving and their effective and influential participation in the success of all events and activities.



أصدقاء الرضاعة الطبيعية
Breastfeeding Friends
المجلس الأعلى للأسرة (ASAF)
Supreme Council For Family Affairs



مركز أجاد للتدريب
AJAD Training Center



جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

تعاونية الشارقة
SHARJAH CO-OP



حكومة الشارقة
دائرة الخدمات الاجتماعية
GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
Social Services Department



BEACON
COLLEGE



وزارة تنمية المجتمع
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



مؤسسة الإمارات للتعليم المدرسي
EMIRATES SCHOOLS ESTABLISHMENT

هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY



جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University



حكومة الشارقة
GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
SHARJAH EDUCATION COUNCIL
مجلس الشارقة للتعليم



