

THE STATUS OF LICENSURE SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS IN THE STATE OF QATAR

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***ABSTRACT_** The purpose of this study was to investigate the licensure system procedures, advantages, and challenges in Qatar. Two sources of data were used to answer research questions. Document analysis was used to compare the licensure system for teachers in Qatar with other licensure systems in other educational systems in the world and to describe in detail the status que of the licensure system in Qatar. Focus group with administrators of Professional License Office (PLO) was used to clarify advantages and challenges of the current licensure system. Results indicated that the main advantages of the licensure system were developing the professional standard of teachers, developing data base for teachers in Qatar, participating of Qatar community in evaluation process, and empowering school to be accountable for their teachers' evaluation. However, the main challenges were (a) not counting years of teaching experience, (b) depending on teacher professional portfolio as the main qualification tool to the teachers' license, (c) weakness of training programs on the attestation process, (d) difficulty of professional standards understanding, and (e) the separation between the licensure system and teachers' evaluation system. Finally, many recommendations and implications were discussed and proposed to enhance the effectiveness of the licensure system in Qatar.*

KEY WORD: Licensure System, Teachers, State of Qatar.