

ISSN: 2392-5442 ESSN : 2602-540X		Sport system journal
V/12 N/02 Year/2025		International scientific journal published by: Ziane Achour –Djelfa- Algeria
P 21 - 43		Received: 2025-06-21 Accepted: 2025-07-19

Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

Ahmed Al-Hadrami^{1*}, Khalil Muhammad Al-Khatib²

¹ Oman, A'Sharqiyah University, ahmed.alhadrami@asu.edu.om ,

²Yemen, Sana'a University - Drkhalilalkhateeb78@gmail.com,

Abstract:

This study aimed to examine the outcomes of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) through a descriptive methodology that encompassed a comprehensive analysis of all relevant literature and official reports issued by the ARU during that year. Employing both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the study found that the rankings are structured around four main Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), each encompassing nine performance metrics: Education and Learning (30%), Scientific Research (30%), Innovation and Entrepreneurship (20%), and International and Local Collaboration and Community Service (20%). A total of 115 universities were included in the 2023 rankings out of 208 institutions that applied, representing 16 Arab countries out of the 22 in the region. The distribution of the indexed universities by country was as follows: Egypt (28), Iraq (19), Jordan (18), Yemen (10), Palestine (8), Libya (8), Saudi Arabia (7), Tunisia (4), Syria (3), UAE (2), Morocco (2), Lebanon (2), and one university each from Bahrain, Algeria, Somalia, and Kuwait. Notably, universities from Qatar, Oman, Sudan, Mauritania, Djibouti, and Comoros were not represented. The top ten positions in the 2023 ARU rankings were dominated by institutions from Egypt (5 universities), Saudi Arabia (2), the UAE (2), and Tunisia (1), reflecting a concentration of excellence within these four countries.

Keywords: Universities; Arab University Rankings; Association of Arab Universities ; International University Rankings.

* *Ahmed Al-Hadrami*

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, various global university and knowledge institution rankings have emerged, aiming to evaluate the institutional performance of entities engaged in higher education, scientific research, development, and innovation. These include universities, colleges, academies, institutes, research centers, and laboratories. Such rankings contribute to enhancing the global competitiveness of these institutions by positioning them both nationally and internationally according to a range of criteria and indicators, which may differ in scope and methodology, with each assigned specific weights and percentages. Since the early 21st century, academic rankings have become a significant tool in assessing higher education systems, particularly in the field of scientific research. Many Arab countries have expressed aspirations to see their universities included among the world's top-ranked institutions. Despite the variation in indicators across different ranking systems, most of them share a common reliance on the quantitative analysis of academic outputs (Al-Siddiqi, 2014).

Global rankings also serve as benchmarks for excellence, offering a relative measure of a university's ability to support academic innovation and contribute to local industry development. Universities that achieve strong rankings tend to play a vital role in providing innovative products, practical consultations, and applied knowledge, all of which can help attract funding and investment from international markets (Shalabi, 2018, p. 4). Nevertheless, the higher education sector in many Arab countries continues to face structural challenges related to organizational, administrative, educational, and technical aspects, which contribute to the limited presence of Arab universities in prominent international rankings. In response, several Arab nations have recently increased their focus on enhancing research quality, academic accreditation, funding mechanisms, and the promotion of leadership and innovation, as well as boosting scientific publication in high-impact venues.

In this context, the Association of Arab Universities was established in 1964 following a resolution by the League of Arab States. A temporary General Secretariat was initially formed in Cairo in 1969, and later, in 1984, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was chosen as the permanent headquarters. As an independent, non-governmental organization with legal status, the Association currently includes over 450 Arab universities. In late 2023, the Association launched the first edition of the Arab University Rankings (ARU), marking a significant milestone in Arab higher education. This initiative was carried out in collaboration with the League of



Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

Arab States and the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), with the aim of improving the quality and outcomes of Arab higher education and research systems. As part of this effort, a specialized body known as the Arab University Ranking Council was established. Several Arab universities participated in this inaugural ranking, and it is expected to evolve into a globally recognized system in the coming years. Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the outcomes of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU).

2. Research Problem and Questions

The problem addressed in this study stems from the limited attention given to Arab research and academic discourse surrounding international university rankings, along with a general lack of awareness regarding the importance of institutional self-assessment and performance-based ranking systems. This gap was a key motivator behind the Association of Arab Universities' launch of the first Arab University Rankings (ARU) in 2023. However, despite the significance of this initiative, several Arab countries and universities remain unrepresented in the rankings for various reasons. This situation underscores the importance of examining the ARU system—its methodology, evaluation criteria, performance indicators, and the assigned weights—and comparing it with established global ranking frameworks. It is equally essential to explore and interpret the results of the 2023 ARU edition.

Based on this context, the study aims to address the following central research question: **How can the results of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) be analyzed?**

To answer this overarching question, the study is guided by the following sub-questions:

1. What is the country-wise distribution of universities indexed in the 2023 Arab University Rankings?
2. Which institutions are ranked among the top ten overall in the 2023 ARU?
3. Who are the top five universities in each individual axis of the 2023 ARU?
4. To what extent did the indexed universities engage with each of the ARU's evaluation axes in 2023?

2.1 Study Objectives

This study aims to examine and interpret the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) through a detailed analysis of its methodology, indicators, and results. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- To explore the structure and methodology of the Arab University Rankings, including the key performance indicators and their assigned weights.
- To assess the participation levels and distribution of Arab universities included in the 2023 rankings.
- To identify the top-performing universities in the overall ranking and within each of the four key performance axes.
- To compare the outcomes of the Arab University Rankings with global ranking frameworks and highlight areas of convergence or divergence.
- To offer recommendations that may support the enhancement of Arab universities' performance in future ranking editions.

2.2Second Subtitle

- To analyze the country-wise distribution of universities included in the Arab University Rankings for the year 2023.
- To identify the top ten universities overall as ranked in the 2023 Arab University Rankings.
- To determine the leading five universities in each of the individual axes of the 2023 Arab University Rankings.
- To evaluate the level of participation and engagement of the universities listed in the Arab University Rankings based on the specific ranking axes for the year 2023.

- **Importance of the Study:**

The significance of this study stems from its focus on the first Arab University Ranking, launched in 2023 by the Association of Arab Universities. It aims to highlight the criteria, indicators, and methodology adopted in this pioneering initiative. The anticipated findings and recommendations are expected to raise awareness of the importance of the Arab University Rankings and to assist in guiding the classification and development of Arab universities in alignment with this first-of-its-kind regional framework.

2.3 Study Boundaries

The scope of the study is limited to analyzing the position of Arab universities



Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

within the 2023 Arab University Rankings.

2.4 Second Subtitle

This study is constrained by several limitations that should be considered when interpreting its results. Firstly, the analysis is restricted to data available in the 2023 edition of the Arab University Rankings (ARU), which may be influenced by the accuracy of the self-reported information provided by participating universities. Secondly, the study focuses solely on Arab universities included in the 2023 ranking and does not account for universities that either did not apply or were excluded. Thirdly, the study does not include direct interviews or surveys with university administrators, which could have provided deeper insights into institutional strategies and challenges. Lastly, access to some detailed raw data and weighting mechanisms within the ranking criteria was limited, potentially affecting the depth of comparative evaluations across institutions.

2.5 Study Terminology

Higher Education Institution:

UNESCO defines higher education and higher education institutions in the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education as follows:

- **Higher Education:** Encompasses all types of study programs or course sets at the post-secondary level that are officially recognized by the competent authorities of a State Party or one of its constituent units as part of its higher education system.
- **Higher Education Institution:** Refers to any institution that provides higher education and is formally recognized by the competent authority in a State Party or one of its constituent units as belonging to its higher education system (UNESCO, 2019).

University Ranking:

University ranking is defined as a systematic method for organizing a specific group of entities based on various evaluation criteria. This process offers a comprehensive overview of the entities' status and facilitates their classification from highest to lowest according to these criteria. Essentially, it involves collecting and analyzing data to assess universities' positions according to established rules and presenting them in an ordered hierarchy (Mahmoud, 2014, p. 27).

Arab University Rankings (ARU):

The Arab University Rankings represent one of the key projects initiated by the Association of Arab Universities. Supervised by the Arab University Ranking Council, the project is carried out in coordination with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), and the Union of Arab Scientific Research Councils. Planning for this ranking began well in advance, culminating in the announcement of its inaugural edition in 2023. The ARU evaluates universities based on four principal indicators: education and learning, scientific research, innovation and entrepreneurship, and international and local collaboration and community service. Each indicator is assessed through nine carefully selected criteria.

Study Methodology and Procedures:

The methodology and procedures of the study are as follows:

- **Study Methodology:** A descriptive approach was employed to analyze and interpret data related to the status of Arab universities in the Arab University Rankings by country and evaluation axes, using content analysis techniques.
- **Study Population and Sample:** The study population and sample comprised relevant literature, reports, statistics, and published studies, with particular emphasis on the 2023 Arab University Rankings report.

3. Data and Information Collection

Data for the study were collected from existing literature and published reports concerning the Arab University Rankings, with primary reliance on the official report published on the Arab University Rankings website at the end of 2023. Additional documented sources and relevant information were also utilized. The collected data were extracted and thoroughly reviewed to address the study's research questions. Subsequently, the data were organized and stored in electronic spreadsheets (Excel), and the findings were presented using tables, figures, and statistical charts to facilitate clear and comprehensive analysis.

3.1 Data and Information Analysis: Data analysis for the study was conducted in two ways:

1. Quantitative Analysis :

In the initial phase, the study employed quantitative analysis using descriptive statistics to examine the status of Arab universities within the Arab University Rankings. This analysis covered several variables, including the distribution of universities by country, the overall top ten rankings, and the top five universities



Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

within each of the four evaluation axes for the year 2023. The findings were systematically presented through clear tables, figures, and statistical charts to facilitate understanding and interpretation.

1. Qualitative Analysis:

The second phase involved interpretative analysis through content analysis techniques aimed at examining and interpreting the quantitative data obtained in the first phase. Following the processing of statistical data, frequencies and percentages were calculated, and the results were organized into tables and charts. These results were then analyzed, compared, and interpreted, leading to the formulation of relevant recommendations and suggestions.

Statistical Treatments:

The statistical methods used in this study primarily involved calculating frequencies and percentages to describe and summarize the data effectively.

Theoretical Background

After reviewing existing literature and published reports, a concise theoretical framework was established focusing on three major global university rankings alongside the Arab University Rankings. These prominent global rankings include:

1. QS World University Rankings:

Published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a non-profit educational and professional organization headquartered in London with branches worldwide including Paris and Singapore. Founded in 1990, QS aims to provide comprehensive information about university programs and produce guides to assist students and professional organizations in selecting universities. The QS World University Rankings list the top 500 universities globally out of approximately 30,000 institutions. This ranking is based on online surveys conducted among universities, their graduates, newly enrolled students, and employers to gather relevant data. The QS ranking criteria include:

Table 1.Weights of QS Ranking Criteria for 2024

S	CRITERION	WEIGHT (%)
1	Academic Reputation	40%
2	Employer Reputation	10%
3	Citations per Faculty	20%
4	Faculty/Student Ratio	20%
5	International Faculty Ratio	5%
6	International Student Ratio	5%

2. Times Higher Education Index

The *Times Higher Education* ranking is affiliated with the British magazine of the same name and was first published in partnership with the QS organization in 2004. Eventually, the two organizations separated their rankings, with *Times Higher Education* launching its own independent ranking in 2010 in collaboration with Thomson Reuters. Since then, it has developed into a distinct and internationally recognized ranking system that lists the top 100 universities worldwide based on the magazine's established criteria. Moreover, it includes a special ranking of the top 100 universities founded within the past fifty years, highlighting emerging institutions that demonstrate rapid development and excellence.

This ranking primarily relies on a reputation survey that evaluates universities in terms of research quality and teaching for its core criteria. The performance indicators are grouped into five main categories, albeit with updated terminology: teaching (focusing on the learning environment); research environment (measured by volume, income, and reputation); research quality (including citation impact, research strength, research excellence, and overall research influence); international outlook (covering staff, students, and research collaborations); and industry income (derived from partnerships, patents, and innovation). These comprehensive criteria aim to capture the multifaceted contributions of universities to academia and society.

Table 2. Weights of Times Higher Education (THE) Ranking Criteria for 2024

S	CRITERION	WEIGHT (%)
1	Teaching Quality	29%
2	Research Environment	29%
3	Research Quality	30%
4	International Outlook	7.5%
5	Industry Income from Research	4%



Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) *(A Descriptive Study)*

The *Times Higher Education* British ranking evaluates the world's leading universities across five main domains: Teaching Quality (29.5%), Research Environment (29%), Research Quality (30%), International Outlook (7.5%), and Industry Income from Research (4%). This evaluation is based on 18 specific indicators that collectively assess the universities' overall performance and impact (Times, 2024).

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), commonly known as the Shanghai Ranking, was first published in 2003 by the Center for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. Since 2009, the ranking has been released annually under the copyright of Shanghai Ranking Consultancy. ARWU employs six objective indicators to evaluate and rank global universities, including the number of alumni and staff awarded Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, the presence of highly cited researchers identified by Clarivate, publications in prestigious journals such as *Nature* and *Science*, papers indexed in major citation databases, and per capita academic performance. The ranking annually assesses over 2,000 universities and publicly lists the top 1,000 institutions worldwide (ARWU, 2023).

The indicator weights are distributed as follows:

Table (3) Shanghai Ranking Indicators and Weights

S	THE CRITERIA	THE INDICATORS	CATEG ORY	WEIGHT %
1	Teaching Quality	Nobel and Fields Medals Laureates among graduates	Alumni	10%
2	College Quality	Nobel and Fields Medals Laureates among faculty	Award	20%
3	Research Outputs	Highly cited researchers	HiCi	20%
		Papers published in <i>Nature</i> and <i>Science</i>	N&S	20%
		Papers indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index	PUB	20%
4	Individual Performance	Institutional income from academic performance per capita	PCP	10%

The Arab University Rankings (ARU):

The ARU aims to act as a key motivator for academics by introducing two open science indicators, enhancing international collaborations, partnering with ultimate beneficiaries, and encouraging the conversion of research outputs into products that positively impact society. These efforts contribute to attracting distinguished faculty members, outstanding students, and international applicants seeking admission to universities (Union of Arab Universities, 2024).

The overarching objective of the new Arab Global Ranking is to improve the outcomes of higher education and scientific research, enabling Arab universities to progress toward the third and fourth generations of academic institutions. It seeks to establish an international ranking system within the Arab world, adhering to modern standards that align with the needs of the Arab region alongside other prominent global university rankings (Salama, 2023).

Methodology, Criteria, Indicators, and Weights:

Participation in the Arab University Rankings requires universities to be actively engaged in both education and research. The ranking framework is based on four principal Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), each assessed through nine specific performance indicators:

1. Education and Learning (30%)
2. Scientific Research (30%)
3. Creativity, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation (20%)
4. International and Local Collaboration and Community Service (20%)

Table (4): Indicators of the Arab University Rankings and their Weights

S	THE INDEX	POINTS	WEIGHT %
1.	Education and Learning	300	30%
2.	Scientific Research	300	30%
3.	Creativity, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation	300	20%
4.	International and Local Cooperation and Community Service	200	20%

Presentation and Discussion of Study Results:

Following data analysis, the responses to the study's research questions were organized into distinct sections, each dedicated to addressing a specific question as detailed below:



Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

Section One: Distribution of Universities Indexed in the Arab University Rankings by Country for the Year 2023:

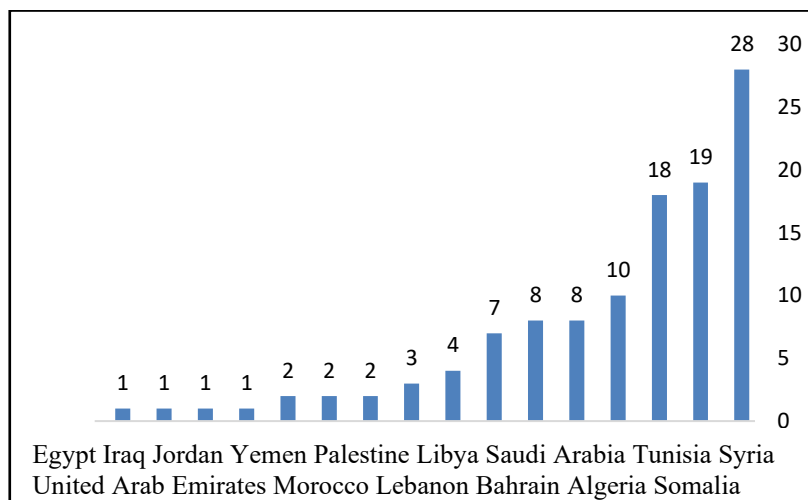
The total number of universities included in the 2023 ranking was approximately 115 out of 208 institutions that applied, representing 16 Arab countries out of a total of 22. The distribution results of the universities indexed in the 2023 Arab University Rankings are as follows:

Table (5): Distribution of universities indexed in the Arab University Rankings by country for the year 2023

S	COUNTRIES	NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES	PERCENTAGE%
1.	Egypt	28	24.35%
2.	Iraq	19	16.52%
3.	Jordan	18	15.65%
4.	Yemen	10	8.70%
5.	Palestine	8	6.96%
6.	Libya	8	6.96%
7.	Saudi Arabia	7	6.09%
8.	Tunisia	4	3.48%
9.	Syria	3	2.61%
10.	United Arab Emirates	2	1.74%
11.	Morocco	2	1.74%
12.	Lebanon	2	1.74%
13.	Bahrain	1	0.87%
14.	Algeria	1	0.87%
15.	Somalia	1	0.87%
16.	Kuwait	1	0.87%

The total number of universities indexed in the 2023 Arab University Rankings reached 115, representing 100% of the ranked institutions. The distribution by country is as follows: Egypt leads with 28 universities, accounting for over 24% of the total; followed by Iraq with 19 universities (more than 16%), Jordan with 18 universities (over 15%), Yemen with 10 universities (nearly 9%), Palestine and Libya each with 8 universities (approximately 7% each), Saudi Arabia with 7 universities (6%), Tunisia with 4 universities (over 3%), Syria with 3 universities (more than 2%), and the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Lebanon each with 2 universities (around 2% each). Additionally, Bahrain, Algeria, Somalia, and Kuwait each had one university included, contributing less than 1% each to the total.

Fig. 1. Distribution of universities indexed in the Arab University Rankings by country for the year 2023.



Arab Universities Union, 2023, 29

The absence of universities from Qatar, Oman, Sudan, Mauritania, Djibouti, and the Comoros is noteworthy.

Section Two: The Top Ten Universities According to the Arab University Rankings for the Year 2023:

The top ten universities in the 2023 rankings were concentrated in four countries: Saudi Arabia with two universities, Egypt with five, the United Arab Emirates with two, and Tunisia with one. Egypt led in the number of universities appearing within the top ten, while Saudi Arabia dominated the rankings in terms of university positions, as detailed below:

Table (6): The top ten universities in the Arab University Rankings for the year 2023:

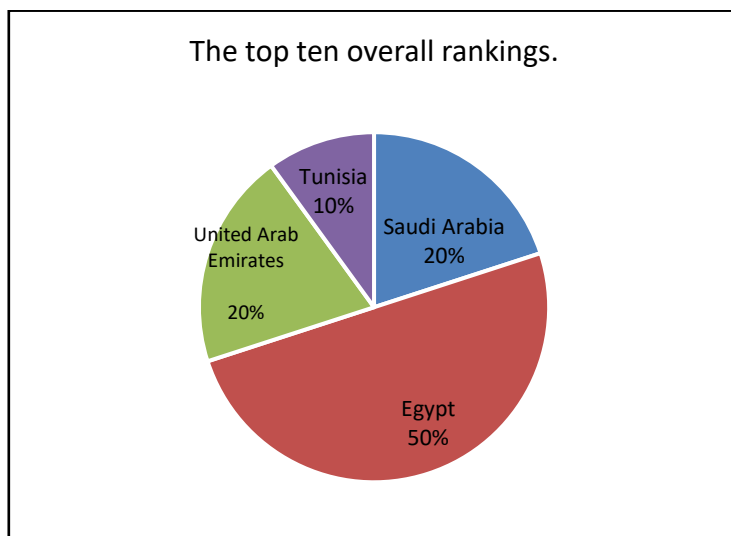
RANK	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	EDUCATION AND LEARNING INDEX	SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INDEX	CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION INDEX	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INDEX
1	King Saud University	Saudi Arabia	233.86	264.56	155.85	176.25
2	Cairo University	Egypt	219.3	212.51	160	133.53

Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

3	United Arab Emirates University	United Arab Emirates	234.82	221.02	125.69	108.81
4	Ain Shams University	Egypt	189.5	183.09	117.03	157.39
5	Mansoura University	Egypt	193.6	217.25	120.64	107.75
6	University of Sharjah	United Arab Emirates	176.91	210.42	143.09	108.4
7	King Khalid University	Saudi Arabia	124.38	227.29	154.64	121.37
8	University of Sfax	Tunisia	216.43	137.01	150	98.36
9	Alexandria University	Egypt	149.69	187.92	128.56	99.76
10	Zagazig University	Egypt	151.32	158.12	107.58	140

King Saud University ranked first among Arab universities in the 2023 Arab University Rankings, followed by Cairo University, United Arab Emirates University, Ain Shams University, Mansoura University, University of Sharjah, King Khalid University, University of Sfax, Alexandria University, and Zagazig University.

Fig. 2. The top ten universities in the Arab University Rankings by country for the year 2023.



Arab Universities Union, 2023, 30

Egypt occupied half of the top ten positions, with five universities representing 50% of the total. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates each held 20%, while Tunisia accounted for 10%.

Section Three: The Top Five Universities According to the Individual Criteria and Indicators of the Arab University Rankings for the Year 2023:

The universities were ranked according to the four main criteria: Education and Learning, Scientific Research, Creativity and Innovation, and International and Local Collaboration and Community Service. The top five universities for each criterion were identified as follows:

1. Top Five Universities According to the Education and Learning Index:

The United Arab Emirates led the Education and Learning Index, followed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, and Egypt.

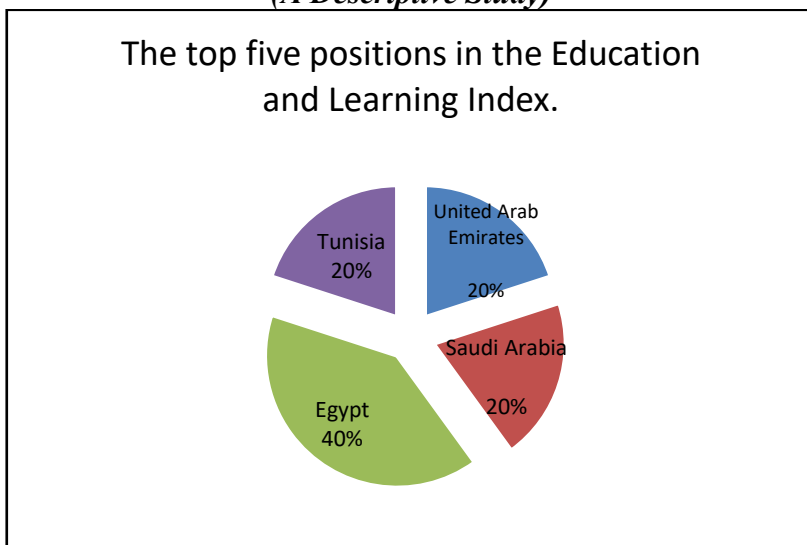
Table (7): The top five positions for the Education and Learning Index by country for the year 2023

EDUCATION AND LEARNING INDEX 300			
RANKING BY CRITERION	University	Country	Weight of Criterion
1.	United Arab Emirates University	United Arab Emirates	234.82
2.	King Saud University	Saudi Arabia	233.86
3.	Cairo University	Egypt	219.3
4.	University of Sfax	Tunisia	216.43
5.	Mansoura University	Egypt	193.6

United Arab Emirates University ranked first in the Education and Learning Index, followed by King Saud University, Cairo University, University of Sfax, and Mansoura University.

Fig.3. The top five positions for the Education and Learning Index by country for the year 2023.

Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)



Arab Universities Union, 2023, 40

The top five positions in the Education and Learning Index were distributed as follows: Egypt held 40% of these positions, while Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Tunisia each accounted for 20%.

2. Top Five Positions According to the Scientific Research Index:

Saudi Arabia led the Scientific Research Index with three universities in the top five, followed by the United Arab Emirates and then Egypt.

Table (8): The top five positions for the Scientific Research Index by country for the year 2023

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INDEX 300

THE SORTING ACCORDING TO THE AXIS	University	Country	criterion weight
1.	King Saud University	Saudi Arabia	264.56
2.	King Khalid University	Saudi Arabia	227.29
3.	Taif University	Saudi Arabia	222.37
4.	United Arab Emirates University	United Arab Emirates	221.02
5.	Mansoura University	Egypt	217.25

King Saud University secured the first position in the Scientific Research axis, followed by King Khalid University in second place, Taif University in third,

United Arab Emirates University in fourth, and Mansoura University in fifth place.

Fig.4. The top five rankings in the scientific research axis by countries for the year 2023.



Saudi Arabia dominated the top five positions in the Scientific Research Index, holding 60% of these ranks through three universities. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates each accounted for 20%, with one university each in the top five.

- Top Five Positions According to the Creativity and Innovation Index:**
Egypt secured the first position, followed by Saudi Arabia, then Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates, respectively.

Table (9) The top five ranks for the creativity and innovation axis by country for the year 2023

THE CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION INDEX 300

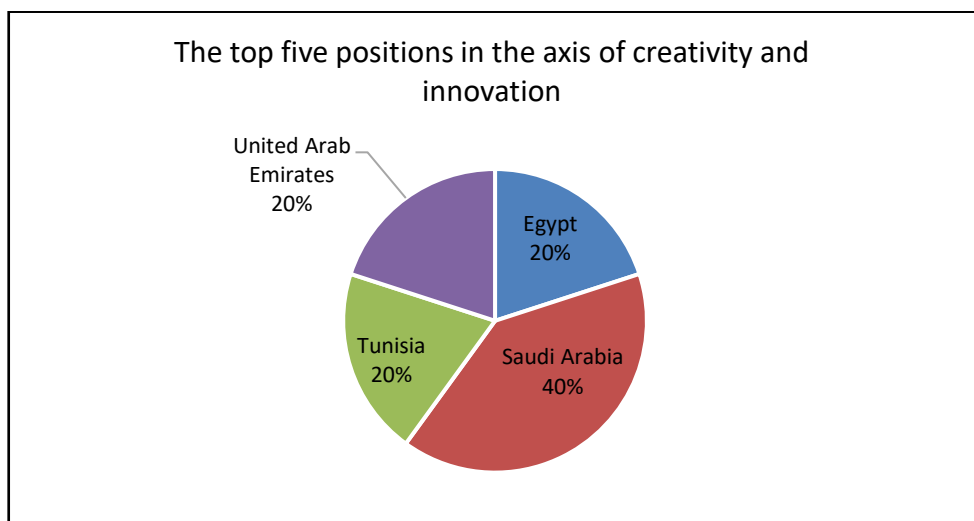
RANKING BY AXIS	University	Country	Criterion Weight
1.	Cairo University	Egypt	160
2.	King Saud University	Saudi Arabia	155.85
3.	King Khalid University	Saudi Arabia	154.64

Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

4.	University of Sfax	Tunisia	150
5.	University of Sharjah	United Arab Emirates	143.09

Cairo University led the Creativity and Innovation axis, followed by King Saud University, King Khalid University, University of Sfax, and University of Sharjah.

Fig. 5. The top five universities for the Creativity and Innovation axis by country for the year 2023.



Arab Universities Union, 2023, 60

Saudi Arabia ranked first among the top five in the axis of creativity and innovation with a rate of 40%, followed by the UAE, Egypt, and Tunisia with 20% each.

4- The top five positions according to the community participation index:

Saudi Arabia ranked first, followed by Egypt in the remaining positions, as follows:

Table (10) The top five positions in the community participation axis by country for the year 2023.

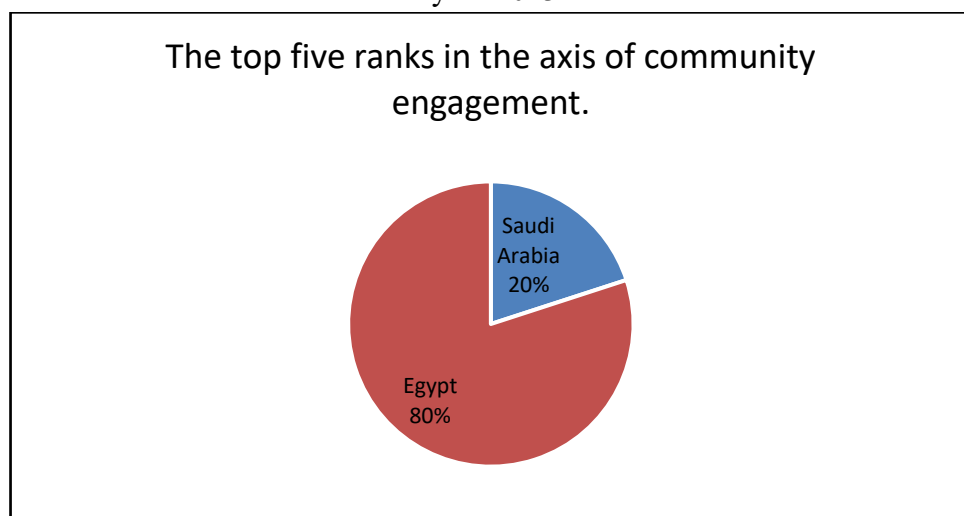
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION INDEX 300

RANKING BY AXIS	University	Country	Criterion Weight
1.	King Saud University	Saudi Arabia	176.25
2.	Ain Shams University	Egypt	157.39

3.	Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport	Egypt	149.63
4.	Zagazig University	Egypt	140
5.	Cairo University	Egypt	133.53

King Saud University ranked first in the Community Participation axis, followed by Ain Shams University, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, Zagazig University, and finally Cairo University.

Fig.6. The top five positions in the community participation axis by country for the year 2023.



Arab Universities Union, 2023,55

The top five positions in the Community Engagement axis were predominantly held by Egyptian universities, accounting for 80%, followed by Saudi Arabia with 20%. Observations of the overall university rankings, particularly the top ten positions and the top five positions within the four classification axes, were limited to just four Arab countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Tunisia. The remaining positions were distributed among these and other Arab countries whose universities were indexed in the 2023 rankings.

Notably, universities from six Arab countries were absent from the 2023 rankings, likely due to various reasons such as non-application for indexing during that



Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

year. It is anticipated that these countries may participate in future editions, as specific circumstances might have prevented their involvement this time.

- **Axis Four: Percentage of Interaction of Indexed Universities in the Arab University Ranking According to the Classification Axes for 2023:**

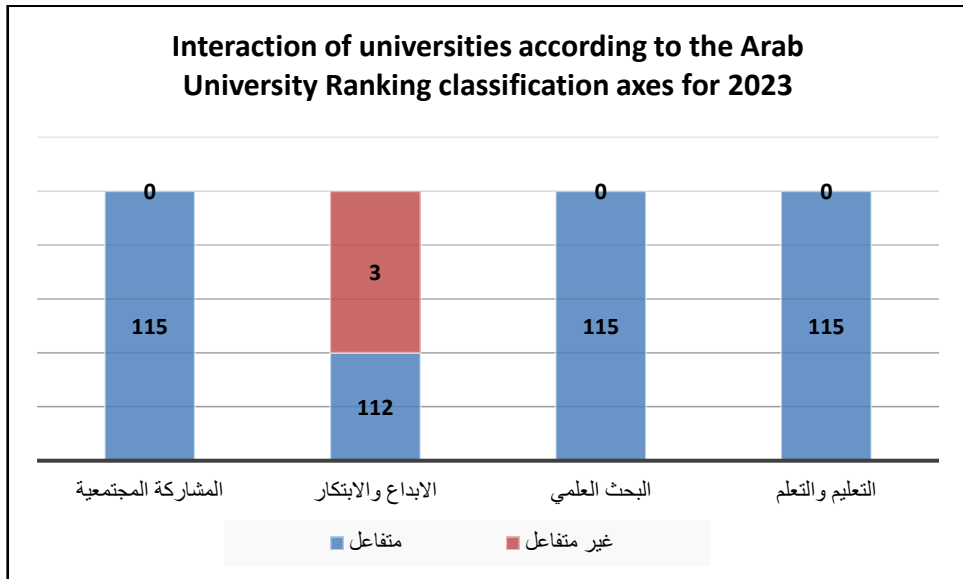
The following summarizes the extent of participation and engagement of Arab universities included in the rankings across the four axes and their respective indicators. The data reflects varying levels of interaction, as illustrated below:

Table (11): Percentage of Interaction of Arab Universities According to the Arab University Ranking Classification Axes for 2023.

AXIS	INTERAC TIVE	PERCENTA GE %	NON- INTERAC TIVE	PERCENTA GE %	TOT AL
EDUCATIO N AND LEARNING	115	100%	0	0.00%	100%
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	115	100%	0	0.00%	100%
CREATIVIT Y AND INNOVATIO N	112	97.93%	3	2.62%	100%
COMMUNIT Y ENGAGEME NT AND INTERNATI ONAL COOPERATI ON	115	100%	0	0.00%	100%

The overall interaction rate of universities across the classification axes reached approximately 99.13%. When examined individually, universities achieved a full interaction rate of 100% in three axes: Education and Learning, Scientific Research, and Community Engagement. The Creativity and Innovation axis recorded a slightly lower interaction rate of 97.39%. The distribution of interaction rates by axis is as follows:

Fig.7. Percentage of interaction of Arab universities according to the Arab University Ranking classification axes for 2023.



Arab Universities Union, 2023, 19

Based on data analysis, Arab universities demonstrated full engagement in the axes of Education and Learning, Scientific Research, and Community Engagement. However, a small number of universities showed limited participation in the Creativity and Innovation axis. The summary is as follows:

1. Education and Learning Axis:

- This axis is valued at 300 points.
- All 115 universities participated, achieving a 100% interaction rate.
- Indicator scores ranged from a high of 234.82 for United Arab Emirates University (UAE) to a low of 13.39 for Mogadishu University (Somalia).

2. Scientific Research Axis:

- Also valued at 300 points.
- Full participation was recorded with all 115 universities engaged (100% interaction rate).



Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU) (A Descriptive Study)

- Scores ranged from 264.56 for King Saud University (Saudi Arabia) to 0.44 for Queen Arwa University (Yemen).

3. Creativity and Innovation Axis:

- This axis carries 200 points.
- Approximately 112 universities (97.39%) participated, while 3 universities (2.61%) did not engage.
- Scores varied from 160 for Cairo University (Egypt) to 0.91 for Samarra University (Iraq). The universities not included in this indicator were City of Science College (Iraq), Bani Walid University (Libya), and Yarmouk Private University (Syria).

4. Community Engagement and International Cooperation Axis:

- Also worth 200 points.
- All 115 universities participated, marking a 100% interaction rate.
- Scores ranged from 176.25 for King Saud University (Saudi Arabia) to 20.15 for Al-Ma'qil University (Iraq).

To further enhance the presence of Arab universities, it is recommended to strengthen coordination with academic unions and foster cooperation between Arab and international universities and productive institutions. Active engagement with union initiatives, launching advanced projects such as the Arab University Ranking, and establishing platforms for managing and publishing scholarly journals are essential steps to maintain and promote Arab scientific production. (Source: Arab Universities Union, 2024)

4. CONCLUSION

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The study concluded that the Arab University Rankings are based on four main Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), each comprising nine performance indicators: Education and Learning (30%), Scientific Research (30%), Innovation and Entrepreneurship (20%), and International and Local Collaboration and Community Service (20%). In 2023, a total of 115 universities were indexed out of 208 applicants from 16 Arab countries, out of a total of 22 countries in the region.

The distribution of indexed universities by country was as follows: Egypt (28 universities), Iraq (19), Jordan (18), Yemen (10), Palestine (8), Libya (8), Saudi Arabia (7), Tunisia (4), Syria (3), United Arab Emirates (2), Morocco (2), Lebanon (2), Bahrain (1), Algeria (1), Somalia (1), and Kuwait (1). Notably absent from the rankings were universities from Qatar, Oman, Sudan, Mauritania, Djibouti, and Comoros.

The top ten rankings for 2023 were dominated by four countries: Egypt with five universities (50%), Saudi Arabia and the UAE with two universities each (20% each), and Tunisia with one university (10%).

6. Recommendations and Proposals:

1. Enhance awareness of the importance of Arab and international university rankings and the value of Arab universities attaining high positions in these rankings.
2. Link a portion of governmental funding to universities' performance in Arab and global rankings.
3. Celebrate annually the universities indexed in global and Arab university rankings, honoring outstanding university leaders and researchers.
4. Analyze the criteria of Arab and international rankings, incorporate them into universities' strategic plans, and implement them progressively.
5. Establish national research funds to encourage universities to develop scientific journals and motivate faculty members to publish in high-impact international journals.
6. Attract international professors and students, repatriate scientific talents, and provide them with appropriate tools and conducive living environments.

7. References

1. Arab Universities Union. (2023). *Methodology and Standards*, Arab University Ranking. In collaboration with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, ALECSO, and the Union of Arab Scientific Research Councils. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://auranking.com/Methodology>
2. Arab Universities Union. (2023). *List of Indexed Universities for the Year 2023*, Arab University Ranking. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://auranking.com/Ranking>
3. Arab Universities Union. (2023). *Introduction*, Arab University Ranking. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://auranking.com/About>



***Analysis of the 2023 Arab University Rankings (ARU)
(A Descriptive Study)***

4. Arab Universities Union. (2023). *Results of the 2023 Ranking*, Arab University Ranking. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://auranking.com/News/View?id=3>
5. Salama, Amr Ezzat. (2023). *Results of the 2023 Ranking*, Arab University Ranking. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://auranking.com/News/View?id=3>
6. Shelbi, Amani Abdel Azim Marzouk. (2018). *Requirements for Achieving Competitive Advantage for Mansoura University in Light of Some Global Experiences*, Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, Mansoura University, Egypt.
7. Saddiqi, Saeed. (2014). *Arab Universities and the Challenge of World Rankings: The Road to Excellence*, Strategic Visions, Vol. 2, No. 6, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, pp. 8-47.
8. Mahmoud, Wuld Mohamed Issa. (2014). *Mechanisms for Improving the Performance of Arab Universities in World Rankings*, Finance and Markets Journal, Issue (1), pp. 25-50.
9. UNESCO. (2019). *Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education*, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Education Sector. Retrieved August 7, 2023, from <file:///C:/Users/MC/Downloads/372970ara.pdf>