



SEKEM Development Foundation

Overview In order to contribute to the developmental goals of the Egyptian people and to facilitate the realization of Egypt's contribution to global advancement and progress SEKEM established the SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF) in 1984. The Foundation works to improve the quality of people's lives by creating awareness and raising consciousness as well as improving living conditions. This emphasis on the connection between improved standards of living and enhanced self-awareness is the core principle and must be accompanied by an enhancement of people's morale and culture in order to be effective. Over the last two decades, the foundation has expanded its program of activities from initial basic educational initiatives and implements now a variety of projects and programs in the field of social development, health care, education and ecology.

The institutions of the SDF are all characterized by a holistic approach. It's not only about learning or applying theoretical knowledge but also about getting practical experience and seeing the human being as a whole. It should be always considered that every person is an individual and develops in a unique way. Talents, skills and knowledge should be developed in a holistic and free way so that people learn to think critical, ask questions and being aware about the effects of their acting.

Medical Center The SEKEM Medical Center is providing health services to SEKEM employees, students and more than 100,000 community members of the surrounding area. Curative treatment is provided to the patients through the Center's different clinics which are managed by specialized physicians. Preventive services are available by public-health physicians and social workers. They raise the people's awareness about sanitation and hygiene and offer information on health, nutrition, disease prevention and environmental issues.

The Medical Center comprises the following health services: General practitioner and Family Physician, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine with and Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Dentistry, Ear, Nose and Throat, Minor and General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Urology, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology

SEKEM Education

Nursery In 1988, SEKEM established the SEKEM Kindergarten as a nursery that was also to provide services to young mothers working in SEKEMs factories. Over the years, the small facility has grown and become indispensable to many workers on the SEKEM Farm. In 2012 the much-liked service has received an addition. A new group specifically dedicated to caring for babies and toddlers has been inaugurated. The new offer is again aiming young mothers working in the factories on the farm. Due to its central and easily accessible location, working mothers can now bring their children with them even if they are still young.

Kindergarten The SEKEM Kindergarten is open to all children of SEKEM employees as well as the surrounding villages. The Kindergarten provides a strong foundation for children to develop and become active participants in life-long learning process. The program is designed for children from four to six years, with special pedagogic emphasis on creative play and discovery to ensure the individual and social development of each child. Their days are filled with practical and artistic work, imaginative play and fairy tales, puppetry and music, circle games and healthy outdoor pursuits. Great emphasis is put on the development of all senses, and especially the fantasy and creativity.

SEKEM School The SEKEM School was founded in 1989 and includes a primary, preparatory, and secondary school for 312 pupils. The pupils represent all social levels coming mainly from the nearby town of Belbeis and the surrounding rural villages. The school serves Muslim and Christian children alike encouraging them to live in harmony and have respect for the other's religious practices.



Although the SEKEM School is approved by the Egyptian Ministry of Education and is based on the Egyptian State Curriculum it also promotes new forms of pedagogic and social interaction. Besides focusing on improving knowledge and skills, the SEKEM School also emphasizes programs which cultivate the inner integrity and moral genius of the individual. Thus, conventional education is enriched with courses in eurhythmy, crafts, drama, dance or music. By combining traditional pedagogical methods with innovative practices it is possible to nurture the maximum social, cultural and educational development of the child. Working and learning are inter-related and go hand in hand with all age levels. The SEKEM School has spacious and well equipped facilities including workshops and a theatre.

Special Education

The objective of this program is to foster, encourage and guide people with special needs to self-reliance as much as possible and engage them in the on-going business processes to become a useful member of the society.

In the Special Education School people with special needs exercise their role in life according to their abilities and through the practice of various activities that work on the development of their mental, cognitive and mobility capabilities. The school also works on the interaction of their senses with the surrounding environment, recognizing it and preserving its natural resources through different rhythms like music, arts, crafts and academic lessons.

SEKEM takes one step further by trying to create job opportunities within the institutions for those who are less capable, to help them achieve maximum independence and social integration.

Community School

To alleviate the child labor problem and to provide as many children as possible with the most essential skills, the SEKEM Community School was designed to stimulate creativity and thinking as a basis for further vocational training such as carpentry and mechanics. The educational part is coupled with an opportunity to gain income through adequate work, mainly related to the chamomile harvest (which is why those children are called “Chamomile Children”). This program is officially approved by the Egyptian government and covered by the Egyptian law that allows light work for children between 12 and 14, especially in the agricultural sector, if it is coupled with adequate training and the right working conditions.

The curriculum at the Community School in SEKEM encompasses subjects like English, Mathematics, Arabic and Religion. To improve health care and hygiene the SEKEM Medical Center conducts awareness programs and offers medical services free of charge. Warm, nutritious meals and adequate clothing are provided for the children as well. Later on, our Chamomile Children are able to join the Vocational Training Center in order to receive practical training.

Vocational Training Center

The Vocational Training Center (VTC) provides young people with abilities that are needed in the local labor market. Given the current lack of opportunities in the Egyptian labor market, the curriculum prepares students for self-employment. Through training courses, the apprentices are guided through every aspect of their chosen trade. In line with the SEKEM philosophy “learning by doing and doing by learning”, on-the-job training is emphasized and practical skills are judged to be just as important as theory. Trainees participate in a three-year program, taught by both local and foreign-trained staff. Since 1999, the VTC has been accredited by the Initiative for Industrial Schools for Vocational Training, a highly successful German technical assistance project in Egypt. Accredited courses include: Mechanics, Plumbing, Readymade garment, Carpentry, Agriculture machinery mechanics, General administration, Electronic technology (incl. computer maintenance) and Welding (with special focus on solar systems).



General

SEKEM Development Foundation	Established: 1984 Entities: General School, Nursery, Kindergarten, Special Education, Community School, Vocational Training Center, Medical Center
Nursery	Established: 2012 38 children
Kindergarten	Established: 1985 54 children
SEKEM School	Established: 1989 Primary, preparatory, and secondary school 312 pupils
Special Education	Established: 1994 36 children
Community School	Established: 20 children
Vocational Training Center	Established: 1997 238 students Departments: Mechanics, Plumbing, Readymade Garment, Carpentry, Agriculture machinery mechanics, General administration, Electronic technology (incl. computer maintenance), Welding (with special focus to solar energy systems)
Medical Center	Established: 1996 More than 41,000 patients yearly Departments: General practitioner and Family Physician, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine with and Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Dermatology, Dentistry, Ear, Nose and Throat, Minor and General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Urology, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology