

Khadija Bent Rashed Ben Saaid Al-Adaweya



At the age of 19, Khadija is already an accomplished young woman. In addition to a high school degree, she holds an English Language certificate from Sahar University and a computer certificate from the Saham school for general education. Even with this solid educational and professional training background, Khadija continues to seek out opportunities for advancement wherever she can.

When friends and neighbors told her about the Women in Technology (WIT) program, Khadija was eager to join a training course at the local Omani Women's Association (OWA) Saham branch. "My passion, my care for knowledge, and my hobby of using computers all motivated me to apply," she says. Her family has always encouraged Khadija to pursue higher education, and they supported her participation in the program, agreeing that it would be personally and professionally beneficial to her.

Khadija found the training in Excel and other Microsoft programs through WIT to be particularly useful, as they have practical applications in the workplace. Now that she's completed the program, Khadija hopes her new skills will help her to find work "that will benefit me as well as benefiting others." Her next steps will be to earn a high-level certification in computers and to continue studying English.

Khadija believes it is important for Omani women like herself to gain skills and confidence in using computers because "women make up half of our society. We have to participate in the advancement of that society and the creation of a new generation that is capable of giving back."

"I advise women to have a major role in society," Khadija says. She recommends the WIT program to other Omani women for this very reason—because technology is changing the world and changing women's lives. "I grew up in an age labeled as the 'age of technology'", she says. "My mother grew up in an age where this technology was missing—and in the future, my daughter will be more knowledgeable about technology than I am."

In addition to her interest in computers, Khadija finds time to run, swim, and read about various topics that interest her. Her personal role model is her cousin, "because she struggled and faced difficulties until she achieved her goals, and she is still striving to do more."

As for Khadija's own goals, she hopes to find a job as a coordinator in a school, or to work in a company in a field that interests her. She feels she has already taken a step in the right direction by taking the WIT training course. "The tips on conducting interviews were a very helpful part of the course," she says. "I learned many things I was not aware of, which increased my self-confidence."

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WIT MENA delivers five core activities to Partner Organizations and Participants, including **Professional Development Workshops, IT Training through Microsoft's Unlimited Potential (UP) Curriculum, Business Planning for Sustainability Workshops, Professional Development Networks for Women and Professional Exchange and Capacity Building.**

For more information on the WIT program, please visit www.witmena.org

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