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**Assessing the efficacy of content and language integrated learning (CLIL) methods for the delivery of business content subjects in a second language to students at a higher education college in the UAE.**

**An evaluation of the potential for improving education and creating value and differentiation for the UAE economy Working Paper's Subtitle**



## **Abstract**

The UAE Government's education policy dictates that Emirati higher education colleges teach content subjects in English, the students' second language. This presents a considerable learning challenge to students with poor English language skills. In order to reduce the number of Emirati students failing higher education college courses because of their poor English skills' handicap, an efficient and effective teaching methodology was sought. Content Learning Integrated Learning (CLIL), which specializes in delivering content subjects in a second language, was identified and assessed for efficacy against standard teaching methods whose approach was not second language orientated. A study was conducted on two groups of female Emirati higher education college students. The Test Group was delivered business content topics via the CLIL methodology and using CLIL-tailored content materials. The Control Group was delivered the same topics using non CLIL methods. Data analysis of the students' business and English examination and course work performance over the period of the study revealed, that whilst CLIL students' performance in the business content subjects did not improve, their English performance did improve. The research suggests that there is a relationship between content subjects delivered via the CLIL approach and better English language skills acquisition. To address the increasing Emirati unemployment rate, the Government needs to identify which potential private and public employment sectors are capable of providing major opportunities for Emirati employment. Also to ensure that education courses are available which match these sectors required skills' sets. Additionally, education establishments should adopt the most efficient and effective teaching methods capable of delivering these skills to students whose current English language skills' deficiency do not increase the likelihood of their failing graduation. These aspects would enhance Emirati opportunities to find employment, thereby supplying an adequately and appropriately educated Emirati workforce. All these points would create Emirati employees who can potentially contribute economic value and help develop a differentiated economy.