

**Practicing Pediatric Environmental Health:
A public health need in Arabian Gulf region**

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In environmental health practice, children cannot be treated as small adults. They are highly vulnerable to the effect of environmental agents; their unique physiological and behavioral characteristics put them at higher risk of environmental illnesses such as Bronchial asthma, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, autism, congenital defect, attention deficit disorders, and other respiratory infection related to environmental tobacco smoke.

Therefore, "*Pediatric Environmental Health*" which is the study of the impact of environmental factors on children's health has become an increasingly important specialty in public health research and practice that take account of children as a special risk group. As numbers of developed community have promoted the development of "*Pediatric Environmental Health*", this specialty is still ignored by health care organizations in the Arabian Gulf region although children below 15 years in Arabian Gulf states form a large percentage of the total population (22-39%).as the world face a huge amount of environmental challenges; children are at risk of the environmental exposures as many studies showed the new trend in environmental illness among children in the last two decades.

This presentation will discuss the role and elements of "*Pediatric Environmental Health*", as well as the importance this specialty for health care organization and health professionals to promote healthy environment and advocate for our future.