

DEVELOPING AN EDUCATIONAL STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES CONFRONTING PALESTINIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

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Abstract

This study aims to develop an educational strategy to face the challenges that encounter the Palestinian educational system by answering the following questions:

- What are the educational challenges that the Palestinian educational system faces within the regions of the Palestinian National Authority from the perspective of the educational leaders?
- What are the educational challenges that face the Palestinian educational system within the Palestinian National regions from the perspective of the political leaders who are members of the Palestinian Legislative Council?
- Do the challenges facing the Palestinian educational system vary from the perspective of the educational and political leaders in the Palestinian National Authority regions?

- What is the suitable educational strategy to confront the challenges facing the Palestinian Educational System?

The population of the study consisted of educational and political leaders of Palestine, including educational and political leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (N= 2647); (2515 educational leaders and 132 political leaders). The population of the study was distributed on the governorates of the West Bank and all of Gaza Strip. The sample of the study was (675) divided into (614) educational leaders and (61 political leaders) from both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In order to answer the questions of the study, a questionnaire consisting of (68) items distributed on six challenges was designed.

The results of the study indicated that the challenges that face the Palestinian educational system as viewed by the educational leaders are primitive, related with the provision of the basic needs such as decreasing overcrowding inside the classrooms, maintenance and renovating and replacing old school buildings, curriculum assessment, and the decline of enrollment in vocational education. In addition, the challenges facing the Palestinian educational system as viewed by the political leaders are of high priority in quantity and quality terms. These challenges are related to the reduction of overcrowding in classrooms, maintenance and rehabilitation of the old school buildings, developing alternative means to manage schools during crisis. They also need to focus the efforts on improving students, put a clear vision for the projects proposed to donors, provide suitable buildings and facilities that satisfy the needs of students with special needs, increase spending on vocational education, provide a kind of education that copes with the scientific and technological development, provide equal opportunities for new generations and encourage the private sector to invest in the field of education.

By comparing the results of the (t- test) between the answers of the educational and political leaders, there were no significant statistical differences between two challenges; namely the development of Palestinian curriculum and the challenges in the pre-school sector. The results were statistically significant regarding the benefit of the educators in terms of the following challenges: Challenges related to the issue of enrollment in public education, infrastructure, rehabilitation and training of teachers and educational supervisors, and the challenges related to the decline of students' achievements, educational counseling, public vocational education, and the challenges of the twenty first century.

On the other hand, the results of the (t-test) were significant regarding the benefit of the political leaders on the following challenges: development of the Palestinian curriculum, funding for education, non-regular and vocational education, removing illiteracy and adult education, creating a strategy to face the challenges of education and development in the regions of the Palestinian National Authority.

The most important recommendations the researcher came out with are: to adopt a strategy that has been developed to deal with challenges facing the Palestinian educational system, to focus the efforts of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Palestine on improving the quality of education both in quality and quantity, to raise the importance of vocational education, to improve the quality of students enrolled in vocational education, to evaluate and review the Palestinian curriculum for all grades, to solve the problem of funding through decreasing dependence on foreign funding and search for alternative resources.