

ABSTRACT

SCHOOL BELONGING AS MED-RANGE IDENTITY BETWEEN PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITY TO JERUSALEMS STUDENTS-PALESTINE

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This study aims to identify the reality of the seventh and eighth grades at Emelson Society School, and the contribution of the school to the development of the individual and national identities of the students, and enhancing their sense of belonging to the school.

The study was conducted on a sample of students from the seventh and eighth grades at Emelson Society School in Jerusalem.

Three instruments were used in the study:

- 1-In-depth Interview .
- 2-Observation .
- 3-School reports .

The study was conducted in two phases along the two semesters of the year 2008-2009. To answer the study question, results were analyzed according to the Grounded Theory(Qualitative Research Method). Observations and school records provided information on how the school contributes to the development of individual and

national identities and the enhancement of their sense of belonging and commonalty.

The study showed the following results:

1-There is clarity in the social and national mission of the school , and the students awareness of this mission. Students emphasized this awareness as essential to the sense of belonging and confidence which lead them to creativity in their study and the development of their talent and personality . The sense of security also protects students from any harm and violence , it also builds trust and special social relations which renounce violence ; this is based on self esteem, respect of others, and leads to cultivating the good things in their souls.

2-The study confirmed that the involvement of students in different school activities has a role in refining and developing their identities ,awareness and positivity that affects their academic achievements. The students said that there are common goals which bring them together, and they feel the sense of belonging which leads them to change their behavior through the various opportunities given to them to practice different activities that affect their identity, their personalities and their way of thinking so as to improve their academic achievements.

3-The study showed that there is a prominence of social identity for their school which was formed as a result of their experience accumulated over the past three years, and emerged with their feelings, their love for the school, and their positive orientations.

Recommendation Of The Study

As the school level

1-The school has to provide for students safe, attractive school environment, constant contact with parents and planting values of belonging to school and country.

2There is a need for more interest in extra-curricular in schools that neglect them because their great effect on the student achievement, identity and social interest.

3-The Palestinian identity should be clearly present in all subjects of study in creative way and farmed with pride and acceptance of others.

4-The school social identity should be clear through its mission and educational vision.

Finally as family and community organizations a vital role of families and community organizations in developing and enhancing education, and fighting the disgraceful violation of the Israeli values to the Jerusalemites. I call researchers to produce a field study about the role of community organizations and its impact on forming the identity of individuals.