

**Problems of Vocational Education in the Palestinian
Secondary Vocational Schools from the Views
of the Teachers and Students Involved
in the Vocational Education**

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Abstract

This study aimed to define the problems of vocational education in the Palestinian secondary vocational schools from the views of the teachers and the students involved in the vocational education, and tried to determine the effects of certain variables on determining the degree of these problems. Concerning the variables related to the teachers; they are gender, major course, academic qualification, years of experience and region (Gaza strip and the West Bank). Whereas the variables regarding the students are gender, grade, and Vocational stream), and region.

For the purpose of this study, stratified randomized samples were used for the teachers and students. The teachers sample consisted of (132) teachers forming (48.5%) of the study population, while the students' sample consisted of (479) male and female. Students' forming (9.4%) of the study population.

Tow instruments were developed to fulfill the aims of the study; The teachers' instrument consisted of (62) items distributed over (6) areas dealing with the existing problems. The areas are, administration and organizing, the teachers' professional development, curriculam and courses, financing the vocational education sector, and the society's view towards the vocational education.

For establishing the instrument reliability, the reliability coefficients were computed using cronbach Alfa formula for both the teachers` and the students` instruments. The obtained reliability coefficients were (0.85) and (0.83) for the instruments of the teachers and students respectively: These calculations were so reliable to fulfill the aims of the study.

To analyse the data statistically, means percentages, T-test, one way Anova analysis of variance and scheffe test were used.

The findings of the study indicated the following:

- Concerning the teachers` view, the total degree of the problems facing the vocational education in the Palestinian schools was great more specifically, it was 72%.
- Financing the vocational education sector came first among the existing problems, while the teachers` professional development came last. The percentages of the responses to these problems were (81%) and (61%) in order.

The total degree of the problems according to the students` view was fairly low. It was (58%). Mainly the facilities equipment sets area came first, and the teachers` professional development area came at the end.

The percentages of the responses to these problems were (66%) regarding the first area and (49%) considering the second one.

There was no significant difference ($\alpha = 0.05$) related to the means of problems from the view of the teachers due to gender, years of experience and region, while there was significant difference due to academic qualification in favour of those who got the Bachelor`s degree.

- There was significant difference ($\alpha = 0.05$) concerning the problems according to the students' views due to gender and grade, while there was astatistically significant difference due to major. The difference was between the agricultural, commercial and industrial branches, and finally there was significant difference due to region in favour of the West Bank.

On the basis of these findings, the researcher recommended the following:

- Developing the vocational education system through adopting national plans, based on a developmental policy, including administration, curriculum and teachers.
- Following certain vocational criteria to meet the local market needs on one hand, and the international standard on the other hand, and developing measures to guarantee and monitor the quality of the vocational education system.
- Conducting surveys in rotation, for the labour market to know the needed skills in certain majors and being in contact with the graduates mojoring in this field.
- Founding an effective partnership with the private sector to finace and train the students, involved in the vocational stream.
- Preparing awareness programmes to improve the society's positive view towards the vocational education.