

Youth creativity

Gender's issues



Project

“Young Gender- Equality Research Chapter”

Canada

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English Brief

This brief is part of the activities of the “Young Gender-equality Research Chapter” project implemented by Palthink for Strategic Studies in cooperation with the Government of Canada. The project focuses on training a number of 20 female and male participants on research skills. Upon completion of the training, the participants produced ten research papers about gender-based issues. The issues were:

Legal

- Challenges facing Enactment of Family Protection Law
- Law of Personal Status for Mother and Her Child in Age of Incubation

Cultural

- Role of Cultural Activities in Dealing with Gender-Based Violence
- Role of Feminist Research to Enhance the Feminist Awareness in the Gaza Strip

Political

- Mechanisms to Enhance Females to Leadership Places in Palestinian CSOs
- Mechanisms to Enhance Women Participation in the Upcoming Palestinian Elections
- Role of Feminist Committees “Isnad” in Assisting Local Emergence Committees to Confront the Pandemic

Social

- GPAs: Continuous Discriminating Policy
- Consequences of COVID-19 on Psychology Support Sessions Female Recipients in the Gaza Strip

Economic

- Economic Gains Resulted by Empowering Women with Disabilities
- Women Vocational Work: Need and Stereotypes

The designations employed and the representation of material in this book do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Government of Canada.

Challenges facing Enactment of Family Protection Law

Norhan As'ad Al-Tabatebi

Brief

This research paper discusses the challenges facing the enactment of family protection law in light of disabling the legislative council. According to the PCBS, domestic violence inside the Palestinian society hit 29% in 2019 in addition to 26 women were murdered in 2020 under the pretext of honor reasons.

The Corona pandemic has also contributed to high rates of family violence due to curfew policies. Accordingly, this law has become significant to enact. This paper answers a fundamental question: What are the challenges of adopting a Family Protection Law?

This paper adopted quantitative and qualitative curriculum through statistics published in the Palestinian Statistics Center, discussing such issues with specialized institutions like Women's Union, collecting data from stakeholders (women's institutions, women's affairs, the Ministry of Development, lawyers), Interview with specialists, as well.

This paper concluded that there is neither effective role nor real political will to approve and adopt the law. The paper also declared that absence of laws, unified and organized policy to advocate this bill, and the weakness of efforts held by official and unofficial institutions to eliminate domestic violence have all contributed to its high rates and allowed opponents to slander the bill goals.

It also recommended taking all necessary measures to approve the Family Protection Bill for example, appealing decision-makers represented by the President, unifying official and unofficial institutions' efforts in escalating awareness about the significance of this law, and forming a unified coalition that gathers all votes to pressure the passage of this law.

Role of Cultural Activities in Dealing with Gender-based Violence

Abdallah Abu Shamla, Mai Alsous

Brief

The paper's objectives are to enhance cultural activities within CSOs, to shed light on and raise public awareness over gender-based violence, and to join efforts to develop solutions through cultural activities, in turn, while also informing people about specialized places. The researchers collected data and concluded interviews to better serve the paper's goals.

The results of the paper showed that there are some challenges preventing the implementation of these activities. For instance, there is a lack of internal and external funding for cultural activities related to issues of gender-based violence, a blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, as well as the prevailing traditions in society which work to prevent women participation in such activities or its existence, insufficient role of the Ministry of Culture to spread cultural activities that work to combat violence against women. The paper argued that the lack of Palestinian public participation in such activities is a consequence of the existed harsh economic conditions. This, in turn, reduced the number of activities related to violence issues in schools and universities and lacked awareness of the importance of cultural activities and media role in addressing issues of violence against women.

This paper reached certain recommendations, the most important of which is supporting and spreading cultural activities with a special focus on gender equality principles by the Ministry of Culture and the government in the Gaza Strip, creating a cultural lobby to work on publishing these activities, including musicians, painters, and anyone interested in gender equality, highlight the issue of violence against women through various media platforms, and induce unification of a plan by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Culture and Education to support activities related to issues of violence against women.

Mechanisms to Enhance Females to Leadership Places in Palestinian CSOs

Hiba Abu Bakra

Brief

The issue of this paper lies within the scarcity of young women presence in administrative councils and decision-making process in CSOs. The paper indicates the percentage of young women participating in volunteer work in 2017 reached (12.8%), which strengthened and activated their participation in various community activities. Nevertheless, the research demonstrated a noticeable absence of young women in leadership or senior positions at all political, social, economic and cultural levels, and showed that young men and women working in decision-making process doesn't exceed 1%, in general.

Therefore, the paper came to enhance the access of young women to leadership positions. It has also shed light on the importance of CSOs role on creating young feminist leadership by improving and empowering young women's leadership skills through involving them in programs, training, and supporting young ideas and projects. The paper concluded a set of results, the most important of which were:

1. Statistics and interviews showed that there is a weakness in the participation and representation of young women in leadership positions in CSOs. Accordingly, the paper recommends the necessity of involving and empowering young women in leadership positions, through increase the number of leadership programs that target young women and provide them an opportunity to prove their competence and ability to lead.
2. There are numerous challenges that CSOs are facing, such as the political and societal conditions, the lack of budgets, and donor's policies for the abovementioned programs, which hinders their interaction with young women as required. Therefore, the paper recommends the necessity of ending the Palestinian secession, reforming internal policies, and improving the political conditions that have a great impact on improving the institutions' work.

GPA's: Continuous Discriminating Policy

Sawsan Ajouri, Hadeel Zaqout

Brief

The paper sheds light on the reality of female students at the Gaza Strip's universities, and the extent to which the discriminatory policy affects university acceptance rates on females. The paper affirmed its arguments through interviews with female students under discriminatory systems; it showed that it has negative effects female students' mental health and their educational and professional future post-graduation. The paper constituted this as an obstacle to activating the role of women in society and bridging the clear gap in social roles caused by the discriminatory policy followed by universities.

The paper revealed discriminatory methods adopted by some universities in the Gaza Strip, with as attempt to pressure the controlling university admission rates in line with Palestinian and international laws that promote gender equality, as well as activate the implications of community responsibilities.

The research adopted quantitative and qualitative approaches in the paper through university admission rates of the discriminatory universities, and interviews with both student who have been subjected to discrimination, and students who did not experienced discrimination. The paper reached a set of recommendations, the most important of which were:

First: Unifying the acceptance rates in the discriminatory universities in a manner that suits the interest of the student first, and then the university's interests, under the rule of laws and legislations that stipulate the principles of equality, justice and non-discrimination.

Second: Directing the focus of attention of women's and human rights organizations towards this problem, and highlighting their role in contributing solving it, as it should be the top priority and focus of these institutions.

Third: End the state of discrimination in university admission rates by a ministerial decision (decision by law that forces universities to end discrimination), in a manner that does not conflict with local and international laws and the educational system. It also suggested that universities should harmonize their policies and interests with the laws and not the other way around.

Law of Personal Status for Mother and Her Child in Age of Incubation

Yasmeen Aldrimly Brief

The paper adopted the issue of observing the personal status law and the interest of the mother and her child at the age of custody specifically in the Gaza Strip. It discussed the reality of laws and issues that women suffer from the custody age. The paper highlighted the need to find solutions to activate the Palestinian child law while also considering the best interest of the child in Sharia courts in order to achieve equality and non-discrimination between male and female children in custody cases.

The paper aimed to identify the personal status laws applied in the Gaza Strip, and the importance of raising the custody age while bearing in mind in the best interest of the child. This was through conducting personal interviews with specialists and divorced women who are subjected to injustice and violence as a consequence of laws applied in Gaza courts to enact custody. The study came out with a set of results and recommendations, which can be presented as follows:

Results:

1. The current guardianship care system causes serious social and psychological negative effects on children resulted from separating the child from the mother.
2. There is a clear discrimination against women with regard to custody. For example, the law revokes the mother's right to custody by simply marrying someone who is not the father of the child, and in return, the husband's right to custody is not extinguished if he marries another.
3. The husband uses the children as a means of revenge against the mother by depriving her of her children or by not paying alimony to the children. This causes an economic burden on the mother.

Recommendations:

1. The need to raise the child custody age to 15 years as the research consider it as the best interests of the child and the mother.
2. The Palestinian Authority must abide by the CEDAW Agreement, which provides the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
3. The judiciary must hold the husband accountable for not applying the laws related to hosting and the right to maintenance.

Mechanisms to Enhance Women Participation in the Upcoming Palestinian Elections

Areej Jareed, Wasim Alkhaldi

Brief

This research paper shows that women have participated in Palestinian political life of all frequency, and this participation was characterized by the great involvement of women alongside men in political and national times. Women felt the urge to deal with the ongoing tensions and presented a clear and strong way in the struggle. The feminist leaders appeared in the Palestinian CSOs. Despite Palestinian women great role within associations and unions along with the great sacrifices they have made, indicators of their political participation and representation are still weak compared to the role they have played before. The paper indicated the percentage of Palestinian women's participation in the 1996 elections to 5 women out of 88 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, equivalent to 6.5%, while in the 2006 elections the number of women in the Legislative Council increased to 17 by 12.8%.

This research demonstrated that this reality necessitates of women active participation in policy-making and decision-making processes. The paper reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- 1- Despite the fact that women have participated in the legislative elections in 1996 and 2006, they still suffer from unrealistic representation, especially in light of the lack of vision of the official Palestinian political establishment.
- 2- Although most of Palestinian parties and factions adopted positive ideas about the status of Palestinian women, the status of women in the parties did not meet the required level or qualification to run for elections and raising the rate of women's participation. The paper saw this requires the parties to work to increase the percentage of women's participation in decision-making processes.

Role of Feminist Research to Enhance the Feminist Awareness in the Gaza Strip

Sahar Lubbad

Brief

This paper adopted the impact of Palestinian feminist research studies on shaping women's awareness in the Gaza Strip, and the challenges that hinder researchers of both sexes, pushing towards achieving women's demands and rights. In addition, this paper attempted, through research and personal interviews conducted with specialists to know the ability of researchers to write research studies according to a sound research methodology with empathy towards women, especially vulnerable groups.

The paper sought to uncover the impeding factors that impact feminist studies, especially research papers that educate women about their rights, as well as the possibility of being a reference for those interested and those in charge of advancing the principle of Palestinian feminist ideology. As for its goals, they are limited to recognizing the issues that feminist studies have been able to discuss, reaching decision-making centers, and pressure CSOs to unify a vision of increasing feminist awareness.

The paper reached some results, including limited impact of feminist awareness which is usually related to a specific time, and the rate of connecting vulnerable groups with CSOs events and conferences. The paper claims this was found through interviews with researchers to discuss feminist issues related to special occasions for women, such as the 16 Days Campaign to Combat Violence against Women and International Women's Day. The research considered this as an obstacle of raising Palestinian women's awareness through research in its various fields, and the absence of a supportive and consistently unified body that attracts researchers in articulating women's issues. The paper declared such incidents are reducing female researchers specialized in women-sensitive issues.

Consequences of COVID-19 on Female Recipients of Psychology Support Sessions in the Gaza Strip

Ahmad Ramzi Alsammak, Monna Abdalhadi Almosadar

Brief

The research paper discusses the effects of the Corona pandemic on psychological service recipients and providers and the way it is provided in the Gaza Strip especially in times when rates of gender-based violence against women have increased. The paper answers the main question: How has the Corona pandemic affected female psychological service recipients in the Gaza Strip?

The research paper adopted quantitative and qualitative approaches. Through statistics and data published by specialized centers and institutions, such as the Palestinian Statistics Authority, the OCHA Foundation, the Gaza Mental Health Program among others, alongside conducting a series of interviews with competent authorities.

The paper concluded that the pandemic and the closure have caused an increase in psychological issues and in the housework placed on women in the Gaza Strip. It explained that the pandemic and the closure have exacerbated violence against women and weakened the protection provided to them, given that the concerned institutions were almost completely stopped. It showed the weakness of joint efforts between relevant government ministries and institutions and associations concerned with providing psychological support service due to the increasing job burdens.

The paper recommended the necessity of reducing the burden of social roles on women through awareness campaigns targeting families and urging effective divisions of work among family members. Also, it stressed the necessity of establishing a unified central apparatus that deals with battered women and provides shelters for them while also communicates with the battered to stop violence against battered women by various means. It also recommended that the competent authorities place the psychological service among the priorities in the event that a state of emergency or a comprehensive closure is imposed again, and to strengthen cooperation between various parties to facilitate effective provision for psychological support service.

Women Vocational Work: Need and Stereotypes

Areej Jareed, Haneen Alamas

Brief

The issue of this research paper is that there is a large qualitative gap between men and women in professional work. Despite the long-extended struggle of working women and their achievements, there is still a need to achieve equality and eliminate discrimination against women. The paper considers searching those issues related to women work on the professional side.

The paper proposes the following in order to overcome the obstacles and challenges of the professional work of Palestinian women:

- The need for educational programs to educate society about all forms of professional work of women.
- Improving professional work conditions for women by preparing social and health insurance systems and providing financial and mental support for women working in the professions.
- The need to alter or add laws to serve women working in the professional field.

This paper has reached a set of results, the most important of which were: the absence of effective policies, the presence of contradictions in legislation, and the prevailing of stereotype as an impact of the prevailing societal culture of women's work. It recommended the necessity of positive distinction for women's favor and increases their participation in the labor market.

Role of Feminist Committees “Isnad” in Assisting Local Emergence Committees to Confront the Pandemic

Dina Waleed Ismail, Nashwa Ahmad Rezeq

Brief

This research paper demonstrates the role of women in Isnad, the guidance and direction committees, as a practical application on the ground that was formed to confront Corona pandemic. The paper adopted quantitative and qualitative approaches by providing data and numbers, the committees’ official webpage, as well as conducting personal interviews with a number of specialists in this field. The paper found a set of challenges and field obstacles that faced the committees’ work, the most important of which are: dividing governorates, home quarantine, the lack of consideration from some municipal leaders in cooperating with the committees, and the Palestinian secession.

The paper recommended a set of recommendations, the most important of which are:

- Disseminating the experience of the guidance and direction committees "Isnad" in southern provinces.
- Work to activate the role of women in local emergency committees and support young women leaders.
- The need to integrate people with disabilities and spread awareness—as persons with disabilities are important segment of society.
- Expand the work of the guidance and direction committees "Isnad" to include new areas and fields.
- Take the necessary measures to maintain the continuity and permanence of the work of the guidance and direction committees "Isnad".

Economic Gains Resulted by Empowering Women with Disabilities

Sadam Alghandour, Mariam Abu Amra

Brief

This research paper considers women with disabilities as among the most marginalized groups whose social and economic rights are violated. It indicated the number of workers reached about 1100 of them, which is only 4% out of more than 115,634 people with disabilities in Palestine, which means that there is a gap in their participation rate in the workforce.

Given the impact of marginalization on their health and well-being, the paper see the necessity to focus on the concept of economic empowerment as one of the solutions to connect them in the labor market and help providing them an access to financial independence. The paper suggested some interventions such as vocational training and the use of technology, raising awareness of economic rights, and providing funding for them to be able to start their own projects.

Empowering these women provide them access to job opportunities and increases their income, thus improving their standard of living. At the national level, the research paper see development goals to be achieved, GDP increases, and poverty would be reduced in Palestinian society.

Recommendations:

- 1- Activating articles included in international treaties and national laws that guarantee the protection and retreatment of persons with special needs, such as increasing the employment rate over 5%.
- 2- Increasing government allocations for programs to empower women with special needs, providing easy loans to start their own projects, and encouraging employment by offering incentives, such as exemptions from some fees and taxes.
- 3- Work with municipalities and facilities owners to provide an environment conducive to their movement.
- 4- Working to increase their awareness of their rights related to protection from exploitation, violence and economic forms specifically, through the media.
- 5- Conducting a modern survey of persons with disabilities in cooperation with the Central Bureau of Statistics as a prelude to issue a disabled card that guarantees their rehabilitation and easy access to services.
- 6- Emphasize the importance of vocational education and the field of technology for women with disabilities with special focus on establishing appropriate training centers and build specialized incubators for intellectuals.