

“Volunteering “Between Reality and Challenges

The First Jerusalemite Youth Forum Closing Statement

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In this final statement of the first Jerusalemite Youth Forum "Volunteering between Reality and Challenges", we review the most important results of the forum, through the results of direct questions that were asked to the Jerusalemite Youth, and then they were voted on through an interactive voting system, The results were directly visible on the main screen of the event hall, as the questions focused on the challenges of volunteering facing youth, and an analysis of the reasons for the lack of seriousness of some volunteers in volunteer activities in institutions or the Jerusalem community in general, in addition to publishing several experiences for volunteers In various fields, starting with volunteering in the secondary and university studies stage, as well as local and international volunteering.



The first Jerusalemite Youth Forum was held on Wednesday

2019/10/30,

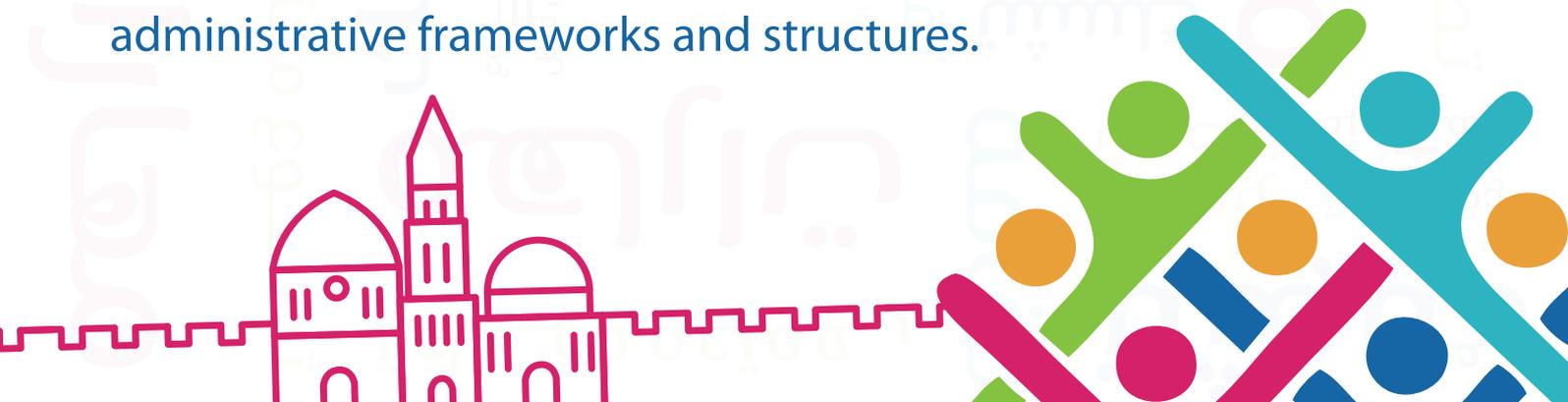
for one day in the Notre Dame Hall in Jerusalem.

and there were four main discussion sessions:

The first session focused on the integration of volunteer work from the secondary stage and its impact on the student, while the second session was about volunteering with international institutions, and the third session dealt with volunteering in the local community in its various fields, and the fourth session dealt with volunteering at the university stage.



Among the attendees were more than 40 male and female students from the secondary and university levels, several school counselors and university professors, and representatives of partner Jerusalem institutions as well, and those who are interested in the topic of volunteering in general, and the focus was on voluntary work, and the most important pillars for strengthening the role of youth in their social life. In building their societies, after that voluntary work wasn't establishing yet as structural base, and the social character overwhelms it, and it is based on what was known as "Oweneh" that was widespread until the end of the eighties. In the early 1990s, work turned into more organized work by forming volunteer work committees in various Palestinian cities to become more organized and based on clear administrative frameworks and structures.



After discussing the forum for these important topics, the participants recommended several important recommendations to be circulated and worked on by the decision-makers in universities, Jerusalemite community institutions, and the students themselves, including:



First: Speakers during the discussion sessions recommended that students should be very serious in integrating into volunteer work early during their presence in school, and cumulatively until they reach the university stage, as it has an impact on the development of their personalities and their future, and it was also indicated the importance of giving him the opportunity Every young man or woman can volunteer the way he or she desires, and accomplishes any significant achievement, albeit through simple actions.



Second: Speakers recommended the importance of highlighting the relationship between volunteers and institutions and analyzing the reasons for the lack of seriousness of some volunteers in volunteer activities in institutions. "This matter is related to people and institutions." Some volunteers are unreliable in performing some tasks, either because of its lack of seriousness and lack of efficiency or because the institution's environment is not ready to receive volunteers.



Here, we must not forget the suffering of the Jerusalemite youth from difficult economic conditions and enormous challenges in securing housing and work and completing education and covering the large expenses of living in the city of Jerusalem, so the need for the forum emerged in light of the challenges of volunteer culture in the current period. These challenges lie with three basic elements (institutions, universities, the student himself).



Here lies the work as Jerusalem institutions that work with youth groups in Jerusalem to organize a forum that discusses the most important challenges facing volunteering and work to find proposed solutions or results that facilitate the mechanism of volunteering and work to develop the skills and capabilities of young people by providing job opportunities for students after graduation in institutions. Three years ago, when the idea was launched and discussed through some Jerusalem institutions, they agreed on the issues that the Forum will focus on in general.





Therefore, the Forum team conducted a questionnaire (pre and post) on volunteering and its issues.

Here we review the results of voting on questions presented to the audience during the forum:

The results were identical to what was stated in the final statement, and they included:





Regarding the benefit of volunteer work, %84 of the respondents say that it belongs to the same person, and %16 say that it belongs to institutions (school, university, and centers), and this indicates that interest in volunteering is a personal motivation without any side effects. This is consistent with our question about the role of volunteerism in building self, as %97 of the participants, before holding the forum, saw that it has the largest role in building self, saw it as a matter of experience of volunteering. It is a percentage that coincides with the rate at which the forum came out, which is %98. This indicates the success of the forum's influence in choosing to discuss the positive impact of volunteering.





- And what confirms this vision is that %83 of the participants are motivated to volunteer for free at the university's level, such as volunteer hours or otherwise. After the forum sessions on this theme, it was stated that %90 of the public has an incentive to participate without charge, which means that the spirit of volunteerism among the youth is largely due to the nature of the programs offered for volunteering.

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- On the change of the concept of volunteering between the past and the present, it appears that %86 of the participants have changed significantly the practical concept of volunteering before the forum was held, while %90 after the forum found that there was a change in the concept and procedures in succession to what came in the axes of the sessions, and this is due to the change in the forms of volunteer work from the concept Helping to participate in a meeting, and radically changing the concept of the incubator from the family to the institutions of civil and local society. As the role of the family decreased by supporting voluntary work and the rise in the role of schools and universities in institutions and their impact, where %91 of respondents see the questionnaire, that the impact of volunteer work is positive in an effective way in the Palestinian society, and %90 after participation, and this is due to the public's awareness about the effects of volunteering in society in its various forms and potential Mixing concepts with it between volunteer work and community service.





- This perception corresponds to the issue of not seeing the impact of volunteerism significantly in our society, and not realizing its importance, as the results showed that only %22 before the forum believe that the community can embrace the concept in theory and action, and this percentage rose to %24 after participating in the forum, This is due to the shift in forms of volunteering from the concept of providing a service to others without compensation to seeking compensation, or due to the domination of the stereotype that distorted the concept of volunteering.





- Concerning the goal of volunteering and its association with the individual and personal factor at the self and professional levels, %43 say that the goal is to serve the community directly, and this service works to refine the self and strongly develop my skills, and this was the opinion of %38 of participants after the forum, and it raises from The percentage of volunteer participation in new social circles of relationships, but it remains the main goal for %9 of the participants. We see that the relationship between these goals is dialectical, as the volunteer circle springs from oneself to society and builds relationships that expand, and it moves the volunteer to other societies, and from here it raises the strength of his personality and develops himself.





- It is not possible to separate self-development and community service, as they are concomitant, because the forum's audience believes that volunteering that builds skills is the best business, as %75 of them emphasized this axis, and in return, %19 emphasized what is in the community service, and %6 saw that Effective work is what was in exchange for voluntary work hours, and this shows that %64 of the public has a desire to volunteer individually even if it conflicts with the work and working hours of the university student or school student.





- This reinforces the idea that the motive is subjective and has no side effects in it, and the goal is self-ranked in the first place, and then it is societal, where %62 think that volunteer work contributes in a simple way to self-identification, and contributes more to the identification of the surrounding community.



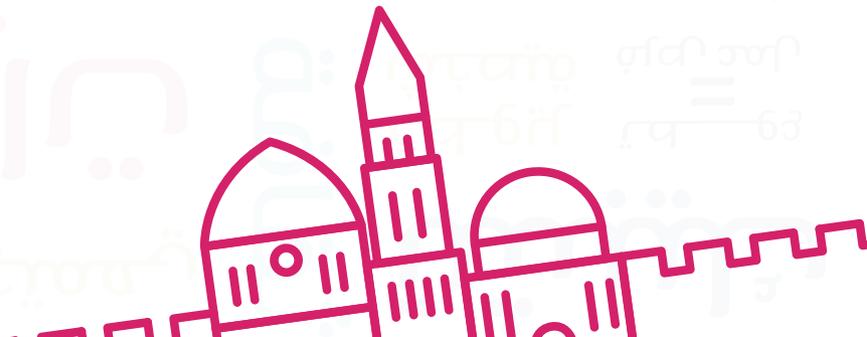


- %84 of the participants in the tribal questionnaire saw that there is a significant impact of the humanitarian implications in Palestine on volunteer and volunteer work programs, as during the Intifada, or humanitarian, religious or other occasions, there is a strong motivation for many to provide humanitarian action that benefits everyone or benefits a specific audience. It became clear to the forum that more than %86 of the attendees see this as a major motivation for providing the service free of charge.





One of the most popular forms of voluntary work in the Palestinian society with its first institutions is the family and the school is the scout, as it played a major role in shaping the personalities of most school students since its founding in Palestine at the beginning of the last century, through its various programs and its connection to society and its institutions within the school, and its connection to civil society institutions %73 believe that it is a voluntary, non-political movement, purely educational, and with lofty goals such as increasing the volunteer's affiliation to his country and society. And the image of the leader remained as a model of the patriotic person with exemplary skills, who possess the foundations of regular work in movements and tools and also by commitment.





The questionnaire addressed an important part in identifying the youth audience and the forum, the prospects of his expectations, dreams and his outlook.





- Regarding their vision of themselves, and after 5 years of indications with the forum about the audience's identity, its future outlook, and the impact of volunteer work on it, we found that the audience is divided into two main sections, with equal proportions between completing the study or heading to private work. From this, it is possible to measure the effect that most young people see education as the best means of protection, that public work is of no use to them, and that independence in private work is more appropriate to their aspirations.





- Regarding the beginnings of their volunteer work, %52 of the public saw that during the secondary stage, which is the transitional stage between the school institution and the university and society institution, the doors and forms of volunteer work are more. %36 of respondents saw that volunteering is more during childhood, due to the role of the school in activating volunteering programs on the one hand, as well as the role of private institutions, programs and their relationships with children on the other hand. These ratios are a strong indication that the secondary school stage has more impact on young people. Either you reinforce or abolish the voluntary concept, depending on its programs.





About %50 of the public saw that the secondary school stage is the most important stage that pushes us to continue or stop, due to the total programs and activities directed to this category by institutions: home, school, and university, and comes second in school in childhood, it is the one that cultivates the concept since childhood Young people theoretically and procedurally, and then they are promoted in high school and university. Even if the volunteer is at school or work.





- On the health aspect of volunteer work, about %80 of the public saw that it affects positively on physical and mental health, and there are no effects that prevent this, and it is an indication that young people enjoy this work and see in it a kind of healthy physical activity, as well as social activity Which brings us back to assert the concept of (Oweneh) and its health, social and psychological impact by providing service to the neighbor or the village, and that the main motivation for young people is to acquire life skills, while %52 considered that it has a fundamental role in refining the personality, through which it can benefit himself and benefit his country, Saw what It is %21 that social relations are small, and this is due to the smallness of the Jerusalem community because everyone knows each other.





- It was found that %63 of the public knows about volunteer activities in Jerusalem, which is an indication that they are closely following the work of programs and institutions largely, and a small percentage is the one who is ignorant of these activities by time, place and age.





- On the Jerusalem community, %75 of the survey population believes that it is necessary to activate and intensify the volunteer work with better quality, a greater impact in the city of Jerusalem and that there is no correlation between the size of the institutions, their number or their projects, and the relationship between the volunteer and the Jerusalem community. The audience of the forum stated that %82 of them see and confirm this same point, which is the activation of quality programs, and that volunteering is not related to a project or institution.





On the transfer of the experience of volunteering and that the Palestinian volunteer can be an ambassador for volunteer work outside the country, about %90 of the questionnaire group showed the ability to volunteer outside the country, and that volunteer work is a human concept rather than a geographical one, and this view is not governed by the high desire of young people to travel, but rather it stems from It is understandable to be a volunteer wherever you are. This was confirmed by a %96 audience in the Forum, which indicates the concept of volunteering as a humanitarian service unrelated to time and place.





- As a large percentage of the youth participating in the questionnaire by the forum sees that the process of adopting and adapting to different and difficult situations in the external environment is the most important requirement for volunteering outside the country with any party, such as the United Nations Volunteering Program, and about %63 of them felt that it does not need Except for self-motivation and the ability to withstand the volunteer program and its implications.

However, %51 of the forum attendees emphasized that participation in the requirements of the United Nations Volunteers Program needs to adapt and adapt to the work environment, and it requires an appropriate academic level such as a university degree, and experience in volunteer work in various forms of volunteering, as this has a major impact in the drive to volunteer and readiness for it.



And finally:

The organizers of the first Jerusalemite Youth Forum extend all thanks and appreciation to all participating institutions and universities, and all speakers and discussants, and to the generous presence; for participating in their experiences and presenting them to the audience and discussing the importance of restoring the value and seriousness of volunteer work in the Palestinian arena, especially in Jerusalem, because of its key role in strengthening And protect the Jerusalem community.

Accordingly, we announce the end of the Forum's activities at 3:30 in the afternoon Wednesday, October 30 of 2019 Jerusalem time, the eternal capital of the future Palestinian state.

Al-Quds Al-Sharif - The final statement committee 2019/30/10