مجلس التعليم العالي
המועצה להשכלה גבוהה
COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
הועדה לתכנון ולתקצוב
Planning & Budgeting Committee

Building bridges, offering hope: Higher Education as a gate to Israeli society for the Arab minority

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The Planning & Budgeting Committee

The Council for Higher Education

The Arab minority: Basic Figures

1. **Population:** 1.6 million, 20% of total, very young (50% under 20)
2. **Diverse groups:** 84% Muslims, 8% Christians, 8% Druze
3. **Income per capita:** 40% of the Jewish population
4. **Poverty rate:** 58% versus 15% for non-Haredi Jews
5. Different **occupational makeup**, large informal sector, significant **wage gaps** for same occupation
6. Low **labor force participation** for Arab women
7. Worse figures for **Bedouins**

Higher Education: gate for the Arab minority

This is one of the main goals of the six-year plan for HE - **why?!**

- The Arab minority **disadvantaged** and far from integrated in every aspect of life
- Beyond moral considerations, it is of fundamental importance **for the future of Israel** to offer them equal opportunities, upward mobility, good education, promising employment, etc.
- Essential for expanding **common denominator** with Jewish majority, enabling societal solidarity, avoiding alienation

Higher Education: key to integration

Arab Students in Higher Education 2010-11

- **12%** of all students, **4% of Ph.D.**, **2% of faculty**; slow rise

- **Distribution by type of institutions:**
  - **12% in Universities (vs. 33%** in population)
  - **25% in Teachers' colleges** (vs. **7%** in population)

- **By academic field** (% of all students in field):
  - Pharmacy, Nursing ~ 40% (vs. 12%)
  - Engineering, Business ~ **5%**

- **Low graduation rates**: high **dropout and "dragging"**
- Thousands **study in Jordan and Palestinian Authority**

The Arab minority: initial disadvantage for HE

2009/10

	Jews	Arabs
Made it to 12th grade	95%	65%
Took Matriculation Exams ("Bagrut")	78%	60%
Entitled to "Bagrut" Certificate	55%	31%
Comply with University entrance requirements	47%	23%

Psychometric Entrance Test: those tested in Arabic get on average **100 points less** (score 200-800 pts.)

Range of obstacles facing Arab students

1**. At entry:**

- Language: Gaps in Hebrew and English
- Deficiencies in learning skills
- Lack of proper pre-academic information and guidance
- Reluctance to undertake preparatory programs (“mechinot”)

2. And then…

- Cultural and Social aspects
- Economic difficulties
- Lack of good transportation, housing
- Diminished employment opportunities at graduation

The PBC master plan: policy principles

- **Goals:**
  - Increase number of entering students
  - Increase % of graduates, shorten time to graduation
  - Open up whole range of disciplines, for both genders
  - Increase % pursuing higher degrees
- Holistic and **comprehensive** approach: address whole range of obstacles, from high school through employment
- Build-in flexibility for trial and error, ongoing assessment of progress
- Engagement of Arab community

The designated budget: NIS 300 million for 5 years

(86 million USD)

Policy continuum

- **High School**: provide information and guidance, recruit
- **Preparatory programs**: encourage participation, respond to special needs
- **1st & 2nd years**: guidance, tutoring, integration
- **3rd year:** employment guidance, foster graduate studies

Additional initiatives and future plans

1. Have already established a **scholarship fund** for Arab students, funded by government, PBC and Jewish philanthropy. This year, 650 students will receive 3,000 USD scholarship.
2. Have started to encourage Arab students to **pursue Ph.D.'s**, and be pro-active in **hiring Arab faculty**
3. Ensure **representation** in academic and executive **committees**, and among senior job holders
4. Ensure **transportation and housing**
5. Special programs for **Bedouins** in the Negev

High School: provide information and guidance, recruit

- Increase awareness to academia and provide information about HE institutions and programs (beginning in 9th grade).
- Provide advice and guidance in choosing field of study; HE websites to be translated to Arabic.
- Talks and seminars on preparatory programs, availability of scholarships, etc.
- Opening up career guidance centers in Arab towns
- Program supervision: by steering committee made of public and academic figures from the Arab sector.

Preparatory programs:
encourage participation, respond to special needs

- Provide comprehensive support:
  - Language skills
  - Tutoring, counseling
  - Dorms/Transportation
  - Preparatory Education Training (PET) Courses
- Consider both mixed (with Jewish students) programs as well as separate ones.
- Improve perception/image of these programs in the Arab sector
- Provide strong incentives for academic achievements

Supporting successful entry into academia

Dedicated budget to support pre- and 1st year entry into academic institutions:

- ❑ The “one step ahead” summer program
- ❑ 1st year comprehensive support program
- ❑ Requirements for participating academic institutions:
  - ✓ Translate internet website to Arabic.
  - ✓ Appoint senior faculty member in charge of all programs for Arab students, reporting to the president or rector.

The “one step ahead” program

A 6-8 week summer program of intensive preparation for Arab students admitted to academic institutions

Goal: Ease initial contact with academia, Hebrew language and Israeli culture.

Method: Intensive pre-school preparatory program including academic orientation, building self-confidence, and Hebrew Language skills.

Target Population: Students admitted to 1st year of undergrad studies (no preparatory course required).

1st year comprehensive support program

Goals:

- Reduce dropout rates
- Improve learning
- Increase chances of graduation
- Reduce length of studies to standard time
- Increase number of Arab students in preferred fields of study: Engineering, Computer and Natural Sciences

Diversify employment opportunities, higher earning potential

Job market placement

Support job search and employment:

- Designated budget for course providing orientation and job search skills: “how to” write CV’s, job interviews, search, self presentation, etc.
- Participation in, and organization of job fairs
- Exposure to potential employers during senior year
- Designate placement official at institution

Supporting graduate studies and recruitment of faculty

	annual stipend (USD)	Number of Fellowships	Period	Total Budget
Masters Degree	11,000	25	2 years	570,000
Ph.D.	20,000	14	3 years	430,000
Post-doc	23,000	25	1 year	570,000
Entering Faculty (“Ma’of”)	50% of employment cost / year	7	3 years	1,000,000

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Thank you!