



**Latest study on education and the Palestinian curriculum by
Near East Consulting:
The majority thinks that the President's Fund to assist Palestinian
students in Lebanon will solve their crisis**

Ramallah: A recent study conducted by Near East Consulting (NEC) about the reality of education and curriculum in Palestine shows that 49% of the respondents believe that the Palestinian curriculum needs minor adjustments, compared to 27% who believe that it is comprehensive and unified, and 23% who are of the opinion that the Palestinian curriculum has big shortages.

The survey was carried out between the fifth and seventh of December on a random sample of 850 Palestinians over the age of 18 from both sexes, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem. The margin of error is +/-3.4% and the confidence level is 95%.

Regarding the Palestinian curriculum, 52% of the respondents think that the current curriculum is better than the former, 30% said it is worse, while 18% said it has not changed.

In a question about whether teaching religion should be limited to religious classes or should also be part of other material, 60% replied that religion should also be taught as part of other educational materials, while 40% said that teaching religion should be limited to religious classes. In the same context, 39% believe that religious education in Palestinian schools is less than it should be, while 29% believe it is more than it should be, and the remaining 32% think it is exactly as it should be.

In their assessment of the Palestinian curriculum, 72% believe that the Palestinian curriculum prepares students either very well or well for the labor market, while the remaining 28% believes that it does so either badly or very badly. As for its focus on public morality, 79% believes that the Palestinian curriculum prepares pupils either well or very well, against 21% who think that it is performing badly or very badly in this respect.

The results also show that 77% believe that the Palestinian curriculum enhances student awareness and acceptance of human rights such as women's rights, individual rights, minorities' rights, while 23% think that the curriculum weakens these concepts.

Three quarters of the Palestinian public, 75%, consider the performance of Palestinian teachers as either good or very good.

Regarding the best schools in terms of education, 30% opted for public schools, 30% said that private schools are better, while 31% said UNRWA schools are the best. The



remaining 9% of the respondents believe that all the different types of schools provide a similar level education quality.

Furthermore, 45% believe that private schools are the best in terms of providing needed services, 29% opted for UNRWA schools in this respect, and 21% chose the governmental schools, while 6% said that all the mentioned types of schools are at the same level in terms of providing needed services.

A majority of 71% believe that the current Palestinian curriculum develops national awareness. In addition, 52% believe that the Palestinian curriculum fits the current mental abilities of Palestinian students, and 61% found that the curriculum develops the creative skills of students. In the same context, 76% of the respondents think that the educational materials take into account the promotion of equality concepts between the two sexes at all levels.

The study also revealed that the greater part of the Palestinian public, 82%, thinks that the initiative of President Abbas in establishing a fund to assist Palestinian students in Lebanon will contribute effectively to solve the students' crisis there. Another majority, 83%, found that the contribution of the private sector and the government in this fund will enhance the principle of partnership between both sectors in social responsibility.

Meanwhile, 60% reported that they had heard of Abu Mazen's initiative in establishing a fund to assist Palestinian students in Lebanon, compared to 40% that did not hear of this initiative at all.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that Near East Consulting monitors Palestinian public perceptions on political, social and economic issues on a monthly basis, in addition to its various political, social, and economic studies that are carried out on behalf of local and international organizations.