



The Rector of Sana'a University pays a visit to the (GDRSC)



Prof. Abdulhakim Al-Sharjabi the Rector of Sana'a University paid a visit to the (GDRSC) and expressed his admiration for the achievements and developments which the library of the center has fulfilled and the quality transition in the field of libraries and information.

Dr. Safia ALdoais, project coordinator of the library and the rest of the staff provided a detailed explanation about the achievements in the library, which is considered one of the

first libraries in the Arab world and the first in Yemen which has an electronic index on the internet where the researcher can access and search in the library through this link.

It is worth mentioning that the library staff have been trained in cooperation with KVINFO is the Danish Centre for Information on Gender, Equality and Diversity. in about six institutions and Arab and International Universities on office operations and exchange of information.

Many new Books in the library



The library offers 269 new titles, both in Arabic and English. They are from various fields such as: Family, Education, Population, Media, Sociology, Rural Sociology, World Bank, and others. All relate to Gender and Development studies.

A committee assigned by the GDRSC administration has selected the new titles. They say the books are of great academic interest and considered as an important addition to the library. The books are references from the 44th International Book Fair, which took place at the beginning of the year, in Cairo - Egypt. The GDRSC library coordinator, who heads the committee, the librarian and library supplier, all participated in this book fair.

The librarians added the new titles to the library and They are now available to our visitors.



The Danish Minister for Development on a visit to the center

As part of his short visit to Yemen on 10 September 2012, the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, Christian Friis Bach headed a delegation to the (GDRSC) at Sana'a University. In a round walk to the library, the library staff explained to the minister how the project started as a bilateral Danish-Yemeni project developed in collaboration with KVINFO and how it strengthens the capacity of librarians and library services for the benefit of the master students at the center in particular and with focus on the outreach of the center to relevant target groups in Yemen. In an open discussion between the minister, the master students in 'International Development and Gender' at the center, the academic and administrative staff, the affiliated students discussed the importance of the master program, which has been

worked out and is running in collaboration with Roskilde University, in sharpening their skills and providing the labor market with well-qualified graduates. These then can devote their expertise and experience to serve facilitating gender-mainstreaming in all fields and the involvement of women in decision-making. The minister expressed his happiness about the positive development of Yemen regarding human rights, women engagement in daily life, and the challenges Yemeni women were facing during the 2011 crisis and still facing afterwards. He also expressed the high support of the Danish Government to keep on supporting Yemen in capacity building of human resources in general and to empower women in particular and to generate an equal environment for women and men in development.

The director of GDRSC receives the Political/Economic Deputy of the US Embassy

Dr. Bilkis Zabara, Director of GDRSC, received Ms. Joanne H. Cummings, the official in the Economic and Political Department at the US Embassy. Ms. Joanne Cummings has expressed her pleasure on this visit which was an opportunity to know the library of the center and its facilities and the services and the programs offered

by the center, which may open the prospects of joint cooperation. During the visit Ms. Cummings attended the lecture organized by the Department of Higher Studies on the National Dialogue which was presented by Ms. Amal Al Basha, spokesman of the Technical Committee of the National Dialogue.



Editorial

A vision for Contemplation



Dr. Bilkis Zabara

Director of GDRSC

The role of media is to spread knowledge and awareness. It should also, I believe, try and put a gender perspective on issues such as: justice, equality, empowerment, gender and the institutionalization of gender. Further, the media should focus on the relationship of gender to sustainable development, and it should be bringing these thoughts to the attention of decision-makers. Based on this, we decided that the print media is of great importance and started a new production: the first issue of the Quarterly Bulletin Gender and Development. Through this publication, we are pursuing our Academic Mission related to the Gender Development Research Studies Center at Sana'a University. Our mission has integrated goals and expresses the goals of educational work inside the center. It illuminates the relationship between the student and the teacher, the implementation of the vision of the center and its future plans, and its monthly and annual program. Through this academic program, the vision of the professors and the administrators is conveyed, and a gate of knowledge is opened for all the youth of the nation in the field of International Development. This is a field of study that is related to social development in any country. Today, International Development is taught in most of the prestigious universities in the world and there is an international demand to link development with the local community. Our center today is one of those centers that have international reputation for its prestigious academic contributions in linking international development with Yemeni society.

This newsletter, which is in our hands, is the product of all the workers at the center. It is the embodiment of this mission that seeks a direct link between the student and the community. Our task as teachers should be grounded in conviction in our academic work and expectations for the future, by achieving the goals that we put in our academic program (Master of International Development). We are betting that this program will radically change development within the country.

Because of our optimism about this academic work through our partnership with others, we have to establish our voice in the media. This will allow us to communicate about our activities and to strengthen our relationship with one another. We consider the delivery of our voice through this new media outlet a first step on the way to expanding our media presence in the future.

Our ambition will not be limited to this. Our vision remains the establishment of a scientific journal that deals with research in the fields of gender studies. This is a fundamental pillar within the objectives of the center, and will expand the intellectual circle of academics within the center in particular and the university in general. It will also be a major support for the research of our students inside the center by publication of outstanding work related to gender and development in our beloved Yemen.



A public seminar on the national dialogat GDRSC

Within the framework of public seminars organized by the center, a seminar was held on "The national dialogue and its importance in sustainable development".

At the seminar which was held under the auspices of the Rector of Sana'a University Dr. Abdulhakim Al-Sharjabi: He referred in his speech to the importance acquired by the theme of the seminar which comes in conjunction with the convening of the sessions of the comprehensive national dialogue conference.



He said "we were hoping that Sana'a University would have a representative presence in the dialogue conference because it has academic staff in various developmental, economic, scientific, cultural and other fields that can enrich the conference with its vast experience."

Dr. Al-Sharjabi stated that the themes of the national dialogue overlooked many aspects and they were dominated by the political aspect; however, it was supposed to give the development aspect and women a greater interest in the themes of the dialogue due to their importance that will benefit the society.

On the other hand, Dr. Bilkis Zabara, the director of the center explained that the seminar comes within a set of events and seminars organized as part of the library project 'Capacity build-

ing of library and documentation center at the GDRSC, Sana'a University". She pointed out that these events are considered as a communication channel between the center and the faculties of Sana'a University, research centers, other universities, local and international organizations, and civil society. Mrs. Zabara considered the current seminar as a kernel for other events, expressing her appreciation for the presidency of Sana'a University for its interest and support for the center since it was established in 1993, as well as all those who contributed in supporting the activities of the center from the international donors.

Dr. Hamid Alawadhi referred to some international indicators on women in his important paper, where women do more than two-thirds of the work produced in the world, but they only gain

10% of the total global income and two-thirds of the poor and illiterate in the world are women. Hence women had to have their priorities in development. Dr. Alawadi called for a declaration that is paralleled to the national dialogue conference that represents the academic vision of the university about the issues of gender and development.

Mrs. Radhiah Al Mutawakel, a former member of the Technical Committee for the Dialogue, presented a paper focusing on the need to set priorities for women's important issues in the national dialogue conference and separate them from other issues in order to put some direct pressure on the government. She emphasized, that taking care of women in the dialogue conference is still nominal despite the pressure and the support of

the international community to represent woman in the conference.

Dr. Mariam Al Jawfi, the vice director of the center spoke about the foundation and development of the center in 1994 as a Unit for Social Research and Women Studies, then it was developed into a Women Studies Center in 1996. It is considered the only center in Yemen which conducts teaching, research, consultancy and awareness on gender issues and development in the Yemeni society. The coordinator of the library project at the center, Dr. Safia Al Doais, presented a brief overview about the activities and the services that distinguish the library of the Center from other libraries. She also mentioned the rich literature the library contains in the field of Gender and Development and the high proficiency of its staff.

A training course in gender and development



GDRSC conducted lectures for some students of the economics department in the Faculty of Agriculture within the frame work of the activities and training courses which the center offers to serve Sana'a University students, the lectures started on Tuesday 25/12/2012 with the participation of eight trainees (male students & female students) from the economics department.

Dr. Safia Al Doais, the coordinator of the library project in the center talked about the library services in the first lecture and clarified the role which GDRSC plays to serve the researchers inside Sana'a University in particular and all over Yemen, as it is an ideal library in terms of technology and modern references. While the second lecture was delivered by Dr. Sabria Al Thowr who is a lecturer in MIDG in the center who pointed out the basic concepts of gender and its relationship with development and agricultural guidance, through her lecture she connected the concept of gender in the university studies with the other disciplines like economic studies especially under the devel-

opment of the concept in most of the world University studies which considers it as one of the courses. While the third lecture in this program was delivered by Dr. Husniah AL-Qadri who is a lecturer in the master program in international development and gender in the center, the lecture was about the concepts of the gender which have a direct relationship with our daily life whether in our academic courses or our media programs which focuses on this concept which stays away from us in terms of using, however, this conception has become a part of humanity life because it includes both males & females.

At the end of the program that was prepared by GDRSC for the students of the faculty of Agriculture a training course was conducted in research methodology and how to search for a reference through the library website or through the websites of the other libraries connected to the library of the center, also the method of searching in general that is used in the world libraries, this course was offered by library staff.

Gender workshop for actors

Thirty actors and project coordinators of a local theatre participated in a workshop on Gender and Women's Rights. This held by the Yemeni Women Union, at their headquarter in Hodiedah governorate, in cooperation with CARE International Yemen, together with the Actors Syndicate in Hodeida and with the support of the European Union. It was part of a project, called WESAL, that aims to empower women through interactive theatre and advocacy.

Dr. Mariam Al Jawfi, a trainer in gender, said the workshop aimed at raising the awareness about Gender and Women's Rights and how to show this in interactive theatre. She pointed out that the interaction of the participants was good during the course discussions and that the issues were discussed in an objective and transparent way.

Ms. Jamila Al Sharie, the project's manager, said the workshop aimed at training the actors of the theatre and the coordinators of the project to know the concept of gender, and how women and men's gender roles play out in society. It also aimed to explain gender-based violence. Yemeni laws and international conventions regarding women's issues were also discussed in the talks on interactive theatre. Theatre plays will be performed in the targeted villages, as an outcome of this project.

The interactive theatre gathers local communities in discussions on issues such as gender-based violence through plays. It contacts decision makers in targeted communities in the districts of Al Zaidia and Bagil.

This project is an initiative implemented not only in Yemen but also in Egypt and Jordan, by CARE International.





A training course in research skills

GDRSC conducted a training course in research skills (Gender) for the students of the Faculty of Media in Sana'a University, for the period of 26-29 January 2015 for 20 students from various academic majors (Radio and Television , Press , Public Relations).

This comes within the framework of the training program for the center for this year which is focusing on joining

the research relationship between the center and the various University Faculties. A lot of different training courses had been conducted in research fields for many university students in various majors.

These lectures included the following subjects:

1- An introduction about the gender concept, the relationship between gen-

der with the Media Researches , the theory of gender and its application in Mass Media (watching and analyzing the dramatic series of Ashwag wa Ashwag = longings and thorns).

2- Science research conception and its methods – how can the students distinguish between the problematics and problems? When does the researcher resort to the assumptions or questions?

3- Developing the participant's skills in methods of collecting information and how to analyze it – quotation and its types.

4- How does the researcher choose the sample and what are the types of samples?

5- Research reports, references and documentation – resources of information and how to deal with it (a practical lec-

ture at GDRSC Library 6- Practical Application on preparing reports and scientific critical summaries and methods to prepare a questionnaire.

At the end of the session the participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the center which conducts such specialized courses with a direct link to the practical and professional life, particularly in mass media.

GDRSC hosts a seminar on the economic and social evaluation

The Gender and Development Research Center hosted a seminar at Sana'a University to discuss "to what extent Yemen benefits from foreign aid", on December 4th 2012. The aim was to review the outcomes of the conjoint Economic and Social Evaluation, implemented by the World Bank, United Nations, European Union and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), in response to a request by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. There is a need for a complete and comprehensive monitoring of the economic, social and development conditions in Yemen between 2010 and 2011. The evaluation's main objective has been, first, to evaluate the social and economic impact of the crisis in Yemen, and second, to identify the challenges and the main priorities for early responses during the transitional period, expected to extend until the first half of 2014.

The evaluation pointed out rea-



sons for the 2011 events in Yemen. It stressed the need to move towards good governance, in order to overcome the challenges with short, medium, and long-term actions.

Economic growth is, noted the evaluation, overall slow in Yemen since the past decade. The average economic growth has been no more than 4 percent a year. This hampers a growth in per capita income and has caused an increase in

the rate of poverty from 35 percent in 2006 to 42 percent in 2011 and reached to 54.4 % this year.

Fifty participants, university professors and other academics, researchers, economists and others, participated. The participants presented requirements for the use of the financial resources given to the country, from the donor pledges and Friends of Yemen, to achieve comprehensive development.

In the opening ceremony, Dr.

Abdulkhakim Al-Sharjabi , Rector of Sana'a University, confirmed the importance of the seminar and its wish to review the results of the evaluation and to know the reasons leading to the current situation and the ways to overcome challenges. He encouraged the participants to enrich the submitted evaluation with remarks that will enable the decision makers to follow through on the State's plans and focus on social and economic advancement

in the coming period.

Expert Mr. Wilfried Engelke, Word Bank Senior economist at MNSD briefly presented the contents of the evaluation and his vision to overcome the challenges in Yemen economically and socially. He said that the past year's events have caused an economic downturn in Yemen of about 11 percent and the Yemeni economy will likely not grow this year due to the repercussions of the last.



Visit by the Deputy Ambassador of Netherlands



Dr. Bilkis Zabara has received Mrs. Renate Pors, Deputy Ambassador and Head of Development Cooperation at Netherlands Embassy, on her visit to the GDRSC. The two met to discuss ways for the GDRSC and the embassy to cooperate. Renate Pors was also given a tour

to the library, where she got to know its and GRDSC's services for students and researchers. The library staff explained its short-time activities. Renate Pors was briefed on the Post Studies Program in International Development, given by the GDRSC.

Renate Pors attended a seminar held by the program to discuss the student's research proposals. At the end of the visit Renate Pors expressed her admiration. She said it is a quality program that the GDRSC offers. She said also that the library provides advanced services.

GDRSC participated in the First National Conference for Human Rights



GDRSC participated in the First National Conference for Human Rights, from 8-10 of December 2012, which was organized by the Ministry of Human Rights in the capital Sana'a under the auspices of the Prime Minister.

The conference aimed at comprehensive reading for human rights situations in Yemen in order to draw up a national strategy for human rights in partnership with the concerned local and regional parties to reach to the best appropriate levels to improve the human rights situation as it should be.

The conference discussed a number of themes: the first national report on Human Rights, and the National Independent Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations and human rights, and the issue of judicial authorities and its role in the promotion of human rights through the stages of enforcing the law, democracy and the rule of the law and the issue of the

international support in the field of human rights and the issue of International recommendations in the field of human rights and the mechanisms of activating them.

The conference included a number of workshops: the workshop of transitional justice, the workshop on the Preparatory Committee of the General Conference for Youth, the workshop on gender (women's political rights - and motherhood and reproductive health), the workshop on the legal framework for refugees in Yemen, the workshop on combating terrorism, the workshop on combating human beings trafficking, the workshop on the media and the human rights, the workshop on updating the organizational structure, the workshop on civil society, the workshop on marginalized and minorities groups, the workshop on social responsibility, as well as a training workshop for coordinators of human rights in the provinces.

Youth Partnership Foundation organizes a training course

Youth Partnership Foundation in collaboration with the Centre organized a training course in the principles and skills of participatory training and education based on participation, which lasted for five days from 21-26 January, 2013 and it was presented by trainer Najla Al Omari.

The session aimed at activating the community participation of youth and to graduate qualified and effective trainers. Twenty-two trainees participated in the session from a number of youth institutions and organizations.

At the end of the session, the participants stressed on the importance of this session which enriched their basic skills on participatory training.



A seminar about the National Dialogue



The Gender and Development Postgraduate Program organized a seminar about the National Dialogue, Ms. Amal al-Basha, spokesperson for the dialog's Technical Committee, was the seminar host. She said the committee has been very busy preparing for the dialogue, choosing its participants and the topics that will be discussed. The committee has also established the rules and regulations around the dialogue.

The main topics that will be up for discussion are already decided upon, said Amal al-Basha. These issues include the constitution, transitional justice and national reconciliation, as well as the Southern issue and the Saada issue; rights and freedoms; good governance, development, and environmental issues; revenge, weapons, and the presence of armed groups; fighting terror; and use of natural resources; the role of qat and

other issues.

The committee wants to ensure that the representation of women in the dialog is no less than 30% according to Amal al-Basha. She also explained how the committee selects women to be representatives in the National Dialogue, both amongst independents and from parties' lists.

A media campaign accompanying the conference has also been prepared and the organizational structure of the conference has been planned. This planning included instruction on how to form the groups, the presidency of the conference, how the sessions of the conference will be held, the estimated budget and anything that would make the conference a success.

The seminar discussion was animated. The students, researchers and other seminar guests were very engaged. Many questions were asked.

A workshop about early marriage among Yemeni girls

GDRSC represented by Dr. Mariam Al Jofy, Deputy Director of the Center, participated on the 16th of January 2013 on a workshop regarding the publication of the results of the study about the causes and the risks of early marriage among Yemeni girls which was held at the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The workshop was organized by the general directorate for Woman's development at the population sector in the Ministry of Health with the cooperation and funding of USAID (United States Agency for International Development) and the participation of many authorities interested in population issues.

At the beginning of the workshop, the Minister of Public Health and Population Dr. Ahmed Qasem Al Ansi stressed on the importance of taking advantage from the

recommendations and the observations of the study and the participants in the workshop that early marriage causes many health problems and deaths because of early pregnancy, pointing out that the Ministry through its various sectors started activating and intensifying health awareness regarding the risks posed by early marriage as well as the ministry is seeking to take legislative measures to address these social and health problems.

On the other side, the director of the General Directorate for developing woman in the population sector in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Kreeman Mansour Ragueh talked about the efforts and the stages of the process of the preparation and accomplishment of this study which was conducted in five governorates: Ibb, Al Hodidda, Thamar, The coastal

zone of Hadramout and its valley region during the year of 2011 despite the difficulties and the challenges that Yemen faced during that period.

She stated that the purpose of the study is to get a scientific base and to provide data that can be used by the decision makers and supporters working towards reducing maternal mortality in Yemen and to push in the direction to issue a law that sets the safe age for marriage.

A number of speeches were delivered by the Chairperson of the Women National Committee Dr. Shafiqah Saeed and by Alia Al Muhandes from the USAID. Both stressed the need for cooperation and coordination of efforts among the relevant authorities caring about this phenomenon. They support policies and programs that will reduce this social and health problem through raising the level of community awareness through various mass media and paying attention to girls education and develop national programs and strategies that teaches Yemeni girls and women their rights and their duties towards the husband.

The study which the General Directorate of the development of women in the Ministry of Public Health and population supervised its implementation pointed out that 80 % of young mothers have marital and family problems and 14 % of the first births of the young mothers have died, and nearly half of them died before the birth, and 21 % of the young mothers have experienced premature births, and the age of 18 and above is the safe age for marriage.





Conference on Gender and Education



Yemeni Women Union held a Regional Conference on compulsory education and the integration of gender studies in the school curricula, on March 3rd and 4th, in Sana'a. The conference focused on three topics: the concept of gender, how to integrate gender in the curricula of education, and the importance of compulsory basic education for girls.

The Head of the Yemeni Women Union Mrs. Ramzia Al Eryani stressed the importance of holding this conference, which coincides with the celebration of International Women's Day. She said education for women is an imperative necessity that is inseparable from economic empowerment and knowledge.

Ramzia Al Eryani said that the aim of the conference is to look towards, and use, the experiences of countries that have preceded Yemen "so that we can change, keep up with the times and reduce the drop out of girls from schools". Ramzia Al Eryani called on the government and the Ministry of Education to issue a decree of nine years compulsory education, to include the outputs of the Conference and its recommendations in the strategy of education, to change the educational curricula integrating the concept of gender, to let women's rights be part of the education.

Ramzia Al Eryani said that education is the main key to empower women politically and practically. The social and cultural environment of the community reflects the development of educational curricula and the integration of gender in education. Legislation

regarding women's issues also needs to be considered in an international framework: Yemen has not achieved what it needs in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals set for 2015, with regards to education for all. Official statistics say that 46 percent of children in Yemen are not enrolled in school. Among rural girls, 71 percent are not in school despite government efforts, such as the Ministry of Education's expansion of education programs to decrease dropout rates and increase enrollment rates.

Mrs. Faiqa Al Said, Presidential Advisor for Women's Affairs said that a modern civil state cannot be built without education, a legislative system and laws for all. A modern state is, she said, built first when attention is given to gender issues and will not succeed unless women are integrated in various aspects of life, especially in the areas of development and construction. Faiqa Al Said also pointed to the importance of the conference and said its activities are of a " regional and Arab nature and involve international participation from friendly bodies, which we salute for their support of government and non-government agencies in order to accomplish the tasks of construction towards a modern civil state." She praised the leadership of the Yemeni Women Union for choosing conference themes that touch people's lives.

"Compulsory education and integrating gender is an important issue especially since we are at the gates of a national and comprehensive di-

alogue that will get us out of the impasse of the political action that is often botched," she said. Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamidi, Deputy Minister of Education, stressed the need to turn education, in all its complexity and with all its technical aspects, into a national issue to be discussed in the country. He said, "communities are taking great care of their educational systems and all the institutions of society are stepping up to repair weaknesses in those systems". He said that the Ministry of Education is seeking help from development partners, whom the Ministry is counting on to contribute to its efforts to make our schools magnet schools.

Abdullah Al-Hamidi referred to the government efforts to spread education and increase its quality despite the challenges Yemen has faced and is facing in the field of education. He reviewed some of those efforts, both in the legal field, which guarantees free education, and in the field of social justice, which advocates equal opportunities in education and taking into account economic circumstances.

Abdullah Al-Hamidi referred to what happened in the process of reforming and developing the educational system in Yemen, including several attempts such as the National Strategy for the Development of Basic Education (2003 - 2015), the National Strategy for Secondary Education (2007- 2015), the National Strategy for Literacy and Adult Education, the Early Childhood Education Strategy (2011- 2015), and other programs. Through these programs

the ministry seeks to refine and improve the quality of basic and secondary education and develop the capacity of the Ministry of Education at the central level and in governorate and directorate local offices.

The Conference addressed a number of research papers on topics such as compulsory education, how to integrate gender in the educational curricula, and a review of the experiences of a number of Arab countries.

The heads of the Arab Women's Federations participated in the conference, along with experts, advisers in education from the Arab countries, the Arab Family Organization, ESCWA, the National Commission for Culture and Science, and representatives from the Paris office of UNESCO, UN for Women, the World Bank's Middle East Section, gender experts from New York, the Arab League, and women leaders from all Yemen's provinces, academics from colleges in Yemen, heads of local councils, members of the House of Representatives and Shura Council, and representatives from the Ministry of Education.

A number of speeches were delivered at the opening. The speakers included Katsu Yoshie Hayashi, the Japanese ambassador in Sana'a, Nina Bhatt, representative of the World Bank in Yemen, Jamal Al Bah president of the Arab family organization, Radia Al Quribi, the representative of Arab Women's Union and President of Tunisian Women's Union. All the speeches confirmed in their entirety the importance of education, especially girls'

education.

The speeches emphasized the importance of a modern education for young men and women as a response to the requirements of the information society and modernity. This is what makes it imperative to review the fundamentals of our educational institutions and to research in the consequences of our choices and our curricula. A constant quest is necessary to improve the situation of the girl and Arab women. There is a strong desire to contribute to the formation of a new capable and competent generation. The subject of compulsory education and integrating gender in the curricula and consideration of its contribution was agreed to be of importance in most Arab countries.

The speeches referred to the importance of the conference, which coincides with the celebration of International Women's Day as an opportunity to exchange ideas, research, and experiences as well as to publish a number of recommendations, which enable us to evaluate and improve the negative image of Arab women in the educational curricula.

The speeches reviewed the role of the World Bank and the Organization of JICA, UNICEF and other international organizations in support of projects of girl's education in Yemen carried out by the Yemeni Women Union. The efforts of Yemeni Women Union in various areas of concern to women in Yemen, and especially in the area of girl's education were praised.

Students discuss their research proposals



The postgraduate students, of the first batch MIDG, have presented their research proposals for the second term.

Different work groups suggested and discussed the following topics: "women and decisionmaking in Yemen", "the relationship between the donors and the local civil society

organizations", "a new social convention for the Yemeni woman", "opportunities and obstacles that face the international donors in implementing development aids for Yemen". Dr. Hosniah Al-Kadry and Dr. Sabria Al-Thewr discussed the proposals and suggested some modifications to the students.

The GDRSC hosts the inauguration

ceremony of «The Blind Rehabilitation Program»

Under the auspices of the Rector of Sana'a University, Dr. Abdulhakim AL-Shargabi, the GDRSC hosted the inauguration ceremony (The Blind Rehabilitation Program) on Tuesday 22/1/2013, which was organized by Shabab Today Organization in cooperation with the cultural center for the blind at Sana'a University funded by the charitable organization of MTN.

In his speech, Dr. Mohammad Yosr, the Vice Rector of Sana'a University, called on the Government to pay more attention to the blind.

He said that they are part of the society and should not be separated, instead they must be integrated in all aspects of life. On the other hand, the chairman of AL Aman Association which takes care of the blind women, Sabah Ali Hurish revealed that the number of the blind who joined the universities over the Republic of Yemen for the year of 2012-2013 was

95 blind students (Men & Women) she stated that the blind students who have joined the schools of the secretariat of the capital were 220.

She emphasized the need to integrate the blind in all aspects of life as well as the need to upgrade them to become effective members in their society.

Ms. Dina Mustafa who is the acting director of the cultural center of the blind at Sana'a University stated that the center provides its services to all the blind students, besides that the center provides courses to upgrade and improve them in addition to using simplified methods which enable the blind to learn.





Researches of the MIDG Program

The Tribe and the modern civil state in Yemen

Researchers:

Ashwaq Shugaa Al Deen - Ejlal Shugaa Al Deen

Supervised By:

Dr. Bilkis AboOsba

Yemen is going through an important and historical juncture during the Arab Spring revolution where all citizens thirst for a modern civil state ruled by the law and equal citizenship, from here started the idea of this research as many controversial questions come to our minds about the possibility of building a modern civil state in one of the most complex countries of the world in its social composition, the tribal composition constitutes 85% of the Yemeni society, so it is hard to ignore the tribe or exclude it from the modern state system where the tribe is a state within a state.

The objective of this research is to study the effectiveness of the rule of the law in promoting citizenship among tribal members and to what extent could this make a shift in the traditional role of the tribe from the negative role of the anti-building a modern civil state to the positive, effective, and participatory role. What are the reasons that make the members of the tribe feel loyal and they are citizens primarily to the tribe and thus a crisis of citizenship is generated towards the motherland and why the tribe resorts to tribal customs rather than the formal law?

To illustrate this issue, the two researchers studied the internal structure of the tribe to detect the reasons that lie behind the power of tribal ties and



tribal loyalty among the members of the tribe. Where there is an equal exchange of rights and duties between the tribe and its members. As from the part of the State the members of the tribe suffer from the policy of marginalization and negligence by the government. The members of the tribe receive protection and safety within the tribe as well as economic interdependence among themselves, where they feel the containment of the tribe for them so they exchange loyalty and citizenship and consider it their little home.

On the other hand, the existence of the tribal customs as a powerful mean for the implementation of justice and a mean to solve the problems of the tribesmen by quick executive means and without procrastination enhanced the loyalty to the tribe, the tribal customs distinguished by the ability to regulate internal and external relations of the tribe in light of the weakness and the absence of the state. The absence of the law and rampant corruption in

the judiciary and the executive authorities and other aspects of the weaknesses and drawbacks are of the main reasons that led to the strengthening of tribal customs and its prominence. The absence of the role of the state as a modern system led the tribe to squat around itself and confront anyone who tries to destabilize the security which led to its continuation in such a force.

We have also studied the patterns of relations between the tribe and the state in different periods starting from the Rule of the Imam where the relationship then was characterized as suspicious and there was a mistrust, during the rule of the president Al Hamdi the conflict was prevailing as a result of the adoption of the project of early civil state by Al Hamdi, angering the tribe fearing that this would lead to its disintegration and weakness, and this project was buried with the assassination of Al Hamdi in 1978.

The beginning of the rule of the former President

Ali Abdullah Saleh was in 1979, where the state rose then based on the tribe, there was a famous statement by the former President "the State is the tribe" where the tribe derived its strength through its hegemony over the state institutions and the traditional system dug rather than the modern system. This strong alliance between the state and the tribe led to the establishment of a networked system that depends on the relationship of favoritism and nepotism, through which some groups have been attracted and excluding some others.

This led to hit the citizenship and social justice at heart and as a sequence the criteria for the distribution of wealth, access to resources, justice and the law, classism, development and national unity were imbalanced.

The research suggested many recommendations that would strengthen citizenship and the role of the law through the following: -

- Promoting equal citizenship for all without discrimination or exclusion.
- The independence of the judiciary and activating the role of the law and the role of the executive institutions, especially in remote areas to decide on the citizens' issues and not to procrastinate the implementation of the provisions.
- Establishment of development projects, especially in rural areas such as the judiciary and police stations and activating the role of educational institutions to contribute in the process of social transformation.
- Equitable distribution of wealth, including compensation of the southern areas to strengthen the ties of the national unity.

Gender Talk with Nina Bhatt

Dr. Nina Bhatt is a senior social scientist specialized in gender at the World Bank. Her and i met in a workshop at the conference on Compulsory Education and Integrating Gender, held in partnership with the World Bank.

I asked her for an interview and bellow you see what came of it.

■ By: Dr. Mona Al Mahakry

Who are you?

My Name is Nina Bhatt. I am a senior social scientist with the World Bank. I work for the Middle East and North Africa region. I am based in Washington DC.

The World Bank is very interested in and very committed to issues of gender equality. As I described in my opening remarks, which I made on behalf of the World Bank management, the bank, at corporate level, has a number of initiatives and commitments to support gender equality work in general. We are very much committed also to gender equality work specifically with regards to Yemen, so – of course – we collaborate with Yemeni Women Union and a number of other organizations, at policy dialog level, at program level, and at project level.

On a personal level, I have always been interested in gender equality. I am from Nepal so in some ways I understand the situation of Yemen. I studied feminist theory and gender theory. I have done a lot of work on gender and been a regional coordinator in the Asian pacific region. We, the World Bank, are now doing a lot

of operational work on the ground on gender issues as well.

What is the importance of the conference?

I think that this conference is extremely important; politically it is a very critical moment for Yemen. What this conference did is it highlighted, in a very large setting, the importance of gender issues, and it did so with a focus on education in Yemen.

When I came to the opening day I thought the audience was remarkable, I believe we had over 600 hundred people during the initial opening, in the audience you had ministry level representation and the international community. You had diplomatic representation of high rank, donor's representation, and you also had representation from all over Yemen, and this is very important.

I think that the whole dialog process, hearing different voices on how to address gender inequality with respect to education, is going to be very important in terms forming the National Dialog process, and also future education strategies for the country. So, I think the more we can

discuss this issue, the more messages we send to the community, and share information, it is all a very important part of the process. Having this conference is a very important part of the process of sharing information about why we need to get together and tackle this issue.

What different issues does the World Bank work with?

The World Bank always works through its country office. We typically have regional strategies for whole regions, and also we have country strategies that are tailored on the bases of the situation of the country and the demands of it. We developed programmatic lines engagements so in that sense you know the bank does have an approach for its engagements in Yemen's country office.

How we can eliminate the confusion about gender in Yemen?

I think the whole discussion in the world of gender issues can cause a lot of confusion, not just in Yemen but everywhere. I think in all countries we have some form of gender equality; in my country Nepal certainly it is so. What is impor-



tant, really, is to frame the issue between man and woman in this specific culture and context and demonstrate that there is not an equal relation between them, wherever one looks, for example in education or labor force participation. We must raise awareness, either through policies, strategies or on program or grassroots levels. There are many interventions, and many of the methods that should be used are about raising awareness in order to achieve results on the ground. Such as the creation of job opportunities for both sexes and in particular for women, and we have to use multiple approaches.

A Library that Distinguishes itself from all other in Yemen



by: **Dr. Safia Al Doais**

Library Project Coordinator

The GDRSC library is the first of its kind in Yemen. It was established twenty years ago, in 1993, as part of the Development and Woman Studies Section at the Social Studies Department at Sana'a University. Till this day it is a specialized Gender Studies and Development Research library. In 2010 the Danish Centre for Gender Research and Information - Equality and Diversity, KVINFO, started to support the library.

The library has both new and specialized collections. Most of the holdings are contemporary references, both in the Arabic and English language, and they include: books, periodicals, M.A theses, and PhD dissertations as well as electronic sources of information.

The library also offers services such as assistance for the academic staff, comfortable reading rooms equipped with modern computers, Internet access, library database access and the possibility to photocopy.

Via its website, www.opac.gdrsc.net, the library offers possibilities also for online research. And an electronic archiving system allows anyone to access the library's database and browse the collections, from anywhere. The library also lets the center's graduate students make reservations online.

In addition, the library offers a range of services, to all students at the University of Sana'a, not only to the ones enrolled at the GDRSC. The library gives special training programs to various colleges. The trainings help researchers to search for sources and references online, on specialized in-

ternational websites. The library staff has received high quality training both inside and outside Yemen. And the library provides all its services free of charge.

The library holds monthly seminars where the participants meet to learn about, and discuss, cur-

rent and societal issues. The library chooses issues that decision makers and the community need to be given more attention to. The seminars are open for all to attend but development officials, from around Yemen, are specially chosen and invited to the seminars. The library wishes to spread awareness, about the role of women and men, in the hope that people will develop and bring forth a greater understanding in their local communities. A bright future is predicted for the library. It grows successfully thanks both to donors and the (MIDG) students. We expect high quality dissertations from our students. And we believe their additions to the field of Gender and Development research in Yemen will be of high quality and excellence.



This issue

A partnership and an ambition



Dr. Mona Al-Mahakry

Editor in Chief

Here comes the first issue of the bulletin "Gender and Development" in the context of an ambitious action plan and a long-term vision aims at spreading community awareness about gender issues and development through periodical bulletins that shed light on the activities of Gender Development Research Studies Center, and to shed light on the pioneering role played by the center in serving the development issues from a gender perspective in Yemen.

This bulletin is issued quarterly under (the Library Project), which was developed in partnership with the Danish Centre for Studies on Women and Gender "KVINFO" which aims at establishing the first research library interested in developing gender and research, development studies in Yemen, so the library becomes a source of information for graduate students and researchers and the non-government organizations working in the field of developing gender and development research in Yemen.

This bulletin will focus on following the course and the progress of the Master program in international development and gender which is considered the first program of its kind at the regional level, which is offered in English in partnership with the Danish University of Roskilde, which aims to supplement the labor market in Yemen with qualified graduates to work in the promising development sector in Yemen according to the vision of gender-sensitive, so as to ensure the effective participation of men and women in development.

We look forward to the success of this bulletin in building bridges of communication between the center and the research centers of common interest, and to open horizons for future cooperation between the Centre and the international donor organizations to implement projects that will support development plans in Yemen of short and long term, and to strengthen relations of cooperation and partnership between the center and between government agencies and non-government organizations working in the development field in Yemen.

A training course for the Staff of the central library

GDESC conducted the first training course for (20) trainees from the Central library of Sana'a and Amra universities. The participants were trained on how to deal with modern technologies in the field of libraries and information and how to apply the automated system in the work of libraries and information.

The training course was conducted with the support of Shareb Company for systems through the program of (Libsys), the topics of training included (electronic loans, entrances of the bodies cataloging, entering the data by MARC system, ..etc).

The lecturers were conducted by Dr. Abdu Mohammed Al Mikhlafi - the current Head of the Libraries and In-

formation Department at the University of Sana'a. It is worth mentioning that the library of the GDRSC is the first online library and it has a well-trained staff who were trained in about six international university libraries such as "Roskilde University in Denmark, the library of the American Lebanese University in Beirut, the library of the Jordanian University in Amman, the Arabian Gate for libraries and information in Cairo.

The participants expressed their satisfaction and pleasure they said that this training will help them to transfer their libraries from the traditional system to the automated system, as it is the case in the library of the GDRSC at Sana'a University.





An education with lots of benefits

The Gender Development Research and Studies Center at Sana'a University is proud to offer Yemen's first master program in Gender and Development. Today there are two Gender and Development classes. All students engage in the academic study of gender and development, with a special focus on the Yemeni society.

■ by / Rowan Hashim



ساميرة حنظل
Sameera Handal



فؤاد الحميدي
Fouad Al-Humidi

Gender issues are critical to achieve sustainable development. Gender equality and equal opportunities, i.e. equal participation in all fields, especially in the areas of education and employment, is one of the main goals of human development and something adopted by many countries of the world, Yemen included. The Social Studies in general and Women Studies in particular both analyze and criticize the status of women in society. These studies claim a need to bring about social change through improvements for women in

all legal and social institutions. Let's see what the students believe are the scientific and practical benefits of this program: Mr. Abdul Karim Saleh Al Sabri, who works practically in the development field, noted that now, because of his studies at the center, he supports the theoretical and cognitive aspects of gender development. He has deepened his understanding of gender issues and says, "we all know the advantages of development, but before our studies here at the center we did not realize the advantages of working with gender

development." According to Mr. Khaled Abdel Majeed Al Qubati the program is helpful "because it was designed in a way that touches upon real issues and is not limited to just theories." Development issues include a lot of different topics, such as planning, building institutions, humanitarian issues, and to study this through a gender perspective distinguishes this program from others, he says. He appreciates that the program is run by different nationalities, it gives it an international touch. Ms. Basma Abu Theeban agrees and

adds, "we are still beginners in the field, but from my point of view it is an excellent program, it helps us understand our practical reality, today and what will be ahead." Mr. Fouad Hamidi says, "we used to address development issues partially, but we noticed that it is big and complex, development means everything and affects the whole community and the lives of all individuals, personally I benefited because the program does

not aim to produce academics, but strives to produce experts." He says, "I benefit from the theoretical side of the program because it helps me in my work with partner organizations." Ms. Jasmine Al Houthi says, "currently we are going deep into the theories of the field, but on a personal level I have learnt a lot." She says "I was able to make use of these theories in my personal life and I have convinced my family that some of my opinions are correct."

Mr. Ammar Mohammed Alfareh says, "on the research level our research skills as researchers are improved." He says, "the main benefit is that we will graduate as researchers, and also we are witnessing the benefits of group seminars, as well as how to use search engines, and how to find different ways to stay informed."

Ms. Samira Handal says, "it is a great program and we now know the fundament of development studies." "We learn development through the experiences of other countries, but there are considerable obstacles in our Yemeni society, of which ignorance and illiteracy is the largest, and it makes it harder to apply some of the theories in this field, to Yemen," she says.



International Development and Gender at GDRSC

What are the policies and strategies of International development? – and what has it got to do with gender? At the GDRSC, approximately 35 young professionals, men and women, are pursuing these questions as they go to lectures, do group work and write problem-oriented projects.

The Master Programme in International Development and Gender (MIDG) at GDRSC, Sana'a University are currently teaching two batches of students. The first batch registered for the programme just as the uprising in Yemen got momentum in 2011, and had for this reason their courses postponed. However, these students are now approaching the end of their second semester. The

second batch began their courses in November last year, and finalized their introductory course this February.

Project reports on 'Sustainability of NGO's from a Gender Perspective', 'Food Insecurity', 'Tribe and Modern State in Yemen' and other topics have been elaborated by the students. Project work in groups is a significant feature of the MIDG, and the students of the first batch are currently elaborating their second project. Students identify the topic that they find interesting and relevant to know more about, and groups are formed on the basis of the topic. The projects are problem-oriented and consequently have more relevance than

being a learning tool, since they also present fresh perspectives on issues that are pressing for Yemeni society as well as for other developing countries, and these principles of project work constitute a core element of learning at Roskilde University, but have been adapted to the MIDG context.

The development of the MIDG is a collaborative project between Sanaa University and Roskilde University. Along with teachers from Sanaa University, teachers from Roskilde University have participated in the teaching of both batches. The motivation and engagement demonstrated by the MIDG students has been striking. Moreover, for peda-

gogical purposes, it is an advantage that students are able to draw on their work experience in the development sector, whether private or governmental.

The MIDG is collaborating with development NGOs and with other universities in the Middle East, such as the American University in Cairo. It is an aim that the best students of MIDG achieve a level which enables them to pursue PhD studies. However, more generally the aim is to increase the capacities and strength of local professionals in e.g. governmental institutions, in private companies, in local and international NGO's.



Dr. Connie Carøe Christiansen
MIDG Program Manager - Roskilde University