



GDRSC Participates In Panel Discussion with Jamal Benomar



The GDRSC, represented by Dr. Husnia Al-Kadri and Dr. Mona Al-Mahakeri, participated in an open panel discussion organized by the Secretariat of the Conference of the dialogue in coordination with the United Nations.

Jamal Benomar, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations envoy to Yemen, confirmed that the wisdom of Yemenis have kept the country away from sliding into the horrors of the conflict, as it happened in a number of countries of the Arab Spring, especially Libya and Syria. Benomar praised the fact that Yemeni men and women representatives of the various categories and components have decided to opt for dialogue under one ceiling to discuss their issues.

In a speech at the open seminar, Benomar commented on the active participation of Yemeni women and their distinct presence in the national dialogue conference. Benomar expressed his pleas-

ure at the fact that Yemeni women are keen on enhancing their participation, next to their brothers, in building a new Yemen.

The seminar, held to discuss the role of Yemeni women in the transitional process, included many academics, feminist leaders and members of the national dialogue conference. Also, a number of civil society organizations, activists in a number of provinces and researchers participated to the seminar. The discussion in the colloquium focused on assessing the role of Yemeni women in the transitional process and the way to translate their aspirations to promote women's political, economic and social participation in public life in the future.

The speakers highlighted the current challenges in the promotion of women's participation; at top of these are societal customs and traditions, the high level of illiteracy among women (especially in rural areas) as well as the perception of women's inferiority in general.

The outputs of the conference would be put as constitutional and legal texts that are clear and do not accept interpretation so as to ensure the rights and empowerment of women politically and in decision-making positions.

The adoption of the quota system to ensure women's access to 30 percent of the seats in the parliamentary and local elections was especially pushed for. It was also recommended to determine this same percentage also for the presence of women in decision-making positions in administrative state units, partisan leadership positions and civil society organizations.

Some of the speakers stressed in particular the importance of giving priority to women in the plans of the state and government during the coming period. Issues such as the adoption of compulsory education for girls and the provision of schools and teachers in urban and rural areas to reduce illiteracy was addressed. The need to develop health services that protect pregnant mothers and the expansion of women training and rehabilitation centers for unemployed women was selected as important item for the women empowerment agenda. The Secretary General of the National Dialogue Conference, Dr. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak, expressed his pleasure at the end of the seminar about the valuable views that were presented by the participants. He stressed that enhancing the participation of Yemeni women and addressing their issues is particularly important and taken into considerations in the various deliberations of the national dialogue.

Editorial



Dr. Mariam Al- Jawfi

Deputy Director of the Center

The release of the second issue of the bulletin published by GDRSC comes while Yemen undergoes a critically important period, namely the approach conclusion of the Comprehensive National Dialogue Conference.

The National Dialogue Conference witnessed the participation of all the social and political representatives and the participants were divided into nine teams to tackle nine different yet interdependent issues. In particular, the NDC teams discussed: the southern secessionist movement issue, on the governorate, state building, rights and freedoms, good governance, army and security, development, transitional justice team as well as about independence of the different power bodies. All nine teams worked with a spirit of national responsibility for the sake of their country. Through this conference, we are all looking forward to the incorporation of the new features of Yemen, a Yemen in which democracy prevails, in which citizens are treated equally. We are hoping to see a new Yemen in which the rule of law is implemented and that enjoys security, stability and in which human rights are respected.

The center hopes that the outputs of the national dialogue conference serve the objectives of the center in gender equality in various fields and political development, and translation of the legitimacy of international human rights and equal citizenship adopted by the Centre in its various programs.

As for the GDRSC, it is making significant efforts trying to overcome challenges brought about by poor resources and the absence of the facilities required conducting the work. Moreover, there is to mention the difficulty to realize the ideal gender related ambitions the center has because threats and harsh attacks the GDRSC is receiving by some conservative groups.

However, the center has been able to go on and continue with its developmental activities. Recently we have provided several training courses that targeted students of the third and the fourth level at Sana'a University from different faculties. The training was to help students use the electronic library and access information easily and conveniently, as well as introducing the center's activities and different departments to the students.

These training courses, organized by the library department of the center, are the result of the joint corporation between the center and the Danish foundation "Kifinfo".

The center is also looking forward to conduct many monthly seminars and panel discussions and hosts many figures and specialists in various fields.

Meeting on Women's Rights Inclusion in Next Constitution

The GDRSC in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Forum of Women and Youth affiliated to the Office of Assistant Secretary-General Jamal Benomar, organized a consultative meeting.

The forum tackled the fundamental issue of the incorporation of women's rights in the next Constitution.

At the opening of the meeting, Dr. Mariam Al-Jawfi, Deputy Director of the center, expressed her sincere appreciation for all the efforts made by the members of the national dialogue, who showed a spirit of responsibility and utmost interest for the successful conclusion and outputs of the Conference. Dr Al Jawfi strongly recommended enabling women of their constitutional rights, especially in the area of political participation and access to decision-making positions so as to achieve equal opportunities in all fields.

Dr. Al Jawfi urged the State the legislation into implementation and to take measures that will prevent any violation and protect vulnerable groups of citizens. Al Jawfi stated that in order to face the reality of women in the society and to overcome obstacles of women's political participation, the



style of positive discrimination should be followed. She also pointed out that adding a clear constitutional text that guarantees women's participation in decision-making positions in the legislative, executive, and judicial levels would help emphasize women's equality with men in all rights and privileges. Dr. Al Jawfi added "From our side (GDRSC), and through our people, who enjoy high efficiency in various disciplines we will spare no effort in providing legal, social, and political advice."

Dr. Fuad AlSalahi, professor of sociology at Sana'a University, presented a research paper entitled "Women's rights in the Constitution". The paper stressed the need to include women's issues in the Constitution to achieve women's presence and existence in the State. Dr AlSalahi argued that

the drafting of the Constitution should not include any form of discrimination, and to make human rights' charters at the basis of it as one of the sources and references of legislation.

The research also suggested the addition of a special chapter in the Constitution that would reinforce the concept of equality between women and men so that the concept of citizenship for men and women would be understood and undisputable in any constitutional or legal text.

The meeting concluded with a discussion session where women representatives in the national dialogue and civil society organizations conferred about several topics related to women's rights in the next Constitution in various fields.

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First Middle East Conference for Women in Turkey

Dr. Mariam Al Jawfi, Deputy Director of the GDRSC at Sana'a University, participated in the First Middle East Conference for Women.

The conference was held in Amed, Turkey, for the period from 31 May to 2 June 2013. It was attended by female figures from more than 26 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. At the conference, a number of topics related to the struggle of women in the Middle East and North Africa were discussed.

On the first day of the conference, the attendees touched on the emergence of social change based on gender. On the second day, the experiences of women's movements in the Middle East and their role in the political changes were presented through the exchange of the participants' experiences. The issues of common struggle for women's movements in the Middle East and suggestions for solutions were addressed on the third day.

On the last session, the final statement, which included recommen-

dations and decisions, was read and it focused on the most important issues discussed during the three day forum. This conference was considered a roadmap for 250 women, the members of the conference, against oppression and occupation in the Middle East and North Africa countries.

The conference concluded with the following recommendations:

- To form a network for the participants in the conference and follow-up results.
- Achieve political solidarity until

the second conference is held.

- Discrimination against women as well as depriving them of their political rights and their right to work should not be approved.

- All the participants should stand against violence practiced against women.

- Continue the political and legal struggle in order to propagate women's rights.

- To protest against the forms of discrimination and violence and call for peace in the world.

It is worth mentioning that the par-

ticipation of Dr. Mariam Al-Jawfi, came by the invitation from Mrs. Gaultan Kicanaz, Vice-President of Peace and Democracy Party, member of the Turkish Parliament. The GRDSC is keen to attend and participate in this type of events as we believe in the importance of keeping the communication open with various parties to gain expertise in such conferences, seminars, and expand the circle of acquaintance between the members of the center and the corresponding research centers around the world.

GDRSC participate in an extended meeting of the project "Wesal"

Dr. Mariam Al Jawfi, Deputy Director of the Center, participated in an extended meeting of the project 'Wesal and community committees'.

The meeting was hosted by the province of Hodaidah in the districts of Zaidia and Bajil from 18 to 19 May 2013.

The goal of the meeting in Hodaidah was to introduce women's rights in Islam, the concepts of gender, gender-based violence, and women's rights in the Yemeni laws and international conventions. The participants focused on their own objectives in terms of raising awareness on women's rights both in general and in the Islamic religion in particular. The concept of gender, as well as the risks

of gender-based violence, was also explored in the meeting.

In her lecture, Dr. Mariam Al Jawfi addressed several topics, including the meaning of gender and its basic concepts, linking these notions to everyday's life, socialization, cultural education and gender roles. The difference between biological gender and social gender-based violence, the difference between public violence and gender-based violence, and the rights of women in Yemeni laws and international conventions were also brainstormed. At the end of the lecture there was an open discussion in which attendees were able to ask question and share their opinions.



Human rights priorities in the transition paths in Yemen

A workshop on the integration of human rights in Yemen during the transitional phase was held on August 24 to 25, 2013 in the capital Sana'a.

The workshop was organized by Empower for Development Foundation in coordination with the United Nations Development Program within the mandate of human rights support and in collaboration with the Arab Fund for Human Rights.

The workshop sought to promote the status of human rights and consolidate the commitments made in this area by local entities involved in managing the transition process as well as by international actors.

The project aims at mobilizing and co-



ordinating the efforts of local, regional, and international civil society organizations, activists, academics, and journalists to achieve a more effective and participatory role and a wider impact so as to contribute to include and prioritize human rights in the transitional process.

Over two days, the workshop addressed topics such as the variables of the transitional phase and their relationship to human rights, requirements of promoting human rights in light of the democratic transition, the Constitution and the rule of law, transitional justice, political and institutional reforms.

GDRSC participated actively with the distinguished presence of Dr. Bilkis Zabara, Director of the center and Dr. Mariam Al Jawfi, Deputy Director of the Centre, who was selected to manage the second session of the workshop. Specifically, the second session addressed the following topics:

- The initial outputs of the reports of the National Dialogue Conference teams.
- Legal strategies and policies in the transitional phase
- Mechanism of the General Inspector of Human Rights in the Ministry of Interior
- Draft of the documents of human rights priorities in the transitional phase
- Roles and responsibilities of international actors
- Mechanisms and guarantees

The workshop was attended by academics, law-makers and lawyers from Yemen, Egypt, Palestine and Sudan under the patronage of the human rights promotion program in the United Nations.

GDRSC Hosts Public Seminar on “Culture, Religion, and Development in Yemen



In the context of the public seminars held by the center’s library, the GDRSC hosted a seminar on “Culture, Religion, and Development in Yemen from a gender perspective”.

The seminar was presented by researcher Ewa Strzelecka, recipient of the Erasmus scholarship and of the doctorate program of the University of Granada.

The researcher started the lecture by defining the concept of culture from a gender perspective, which is considered as a variable complex concept, which implies that the concept of gender changes with and within the cultural context. Mrs. Ewa also reviewed the different definitions of development and pointed out that the concepts converged in the nineties and development has become part of the culture. She also pointed out the participation of active

Yemeni women in the people’s revolution in 2011. The revolution opened up new opportunities for women for gathering and expressing their ideas, through the Arab Spring, women in Yemen managed to deliver their voices to the world.

During the lecture, she analyzed some of the cultural phenomena of the participation of women from a gender perspective by displaying a number of effective pictures for women’s participation in the revolution.

The seminar was attended by Ms. Fatima Awad, Officer of the Danish program in Yemen, Ms. Patricia Burrows, an Officer in the Department of Economic Affairs at the American embassy, as well as faculty members, researchers, students from the graduate program at the GDRSC and experts in the field.

Girls’ Obstacles to Education

In collaboration with the GDRSC, the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, AIYS, organized a Lecture at the GDRSC premises about “The obstacles to girls’ education in some districts of Amran governorate”.

The lecture was presented by Dr. Abdul Hakim Al Mikhlaflafi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Amran, a fellow of the AYIS. Dr. Bilkis Zabara, Director of the Centre, gave a speech in which she welcomed the attendees and noted the importance of the subject of the lecture and thanked the AIYS for collaborating with the center in public sessions. Furthermore, Dr. Stephen Steinbeiser, the director of the Institute, gave an introductory speech about the institute where he called the researchers to interact with the center’s services and take advantage of the library.

Dr. Al Mikhlaflafi began the lecture with an introduc-

tion about the reality of girls’ education in Yemen and pointed to the rationale for the study. The most important point was that Yemen is ranked lower in the gender gap in terms of education, according to a UNESCO report. The importance of the study lies in the identification of the challenges and great responsibility placed on burden of Yemeni women as education of children and workloads in agriculture in rural areas. The above condition leads to the need to come up with recommendations that would help decision-makers to realize the different challenges that prevent girls from getting adequate education.

The results of the study confirm that the political and educational constraints like schools located too far from houses and the lack of female teachers are the most important obstacles that stand in front of girls’ education.



Hosting the Regional Director of the World Bank at the University of Sana’a

The GDRSC and the Center of Water and Environment at University of Sana’a hosted in May 2013 Mr. Astavenci Sucker the Regional Director for the unit of water and agriculture in the World Bank and the Middle East and North Africa, he was accompanied with Dr. Qari the Senior expert of rural development in the World Bank.

During the meeting, they discussed the ways of support that can be provided by the World Bank with regard to water security in the Republic of Yemen and its relationship to gender, especially in urban and rural areas that suffer from water scarcity. In his speech which was delivered in front of the audience, Mr. Astavenci expressed his interest in the issue of water in Yemen and demanded in his speech to provide an integrated visualization about the methods and goals of the previous projects and what have been achieved and what can be provided by the Bank in the coming period.

Commenting on the speech of Mr. Sucker Dr. Abdul Hakim Al Shargabi the Rector of Sana’a University talked and expressed welcome for



the visiting delegation for the GDRSC and the Center of Water and Environment, considering that this presence has its connotations and its im-

portance, and he praised in his speech the leadership of the two centers in coordinating such meetings with donors, hoping to be utilized to

serve the Yemeni society as a whole.

After the completion of the speeches that were given and the discussions that were made by the audience, the two visitors took a tour in the GDRSC along with a number of guests, where Dr. Bilkis Zabarah the director of the Center gave a brief overview about the services and the concerns of the center on gender, as well as introducing them to the various sections of the Centre as the scientific library, lecture halls.

The audience were given some gifts of the Scientific productions of the Center like the newsletter of the center (gender), as well as many brochures that explain the sections and the various activities of the Centre in the libraries section and other sections like graduate studies and the students in the program of International Development, the audience were impressed by what they saw of the potentials that distinguish the GDRSC, as well as the various activities and how to document them in the media and so on.



Yemen Aid Absorptive Capacity

Researchers:

Ali Sharwan, Adel Salah,
AbeerAlabsi, Ibrahim
Alharazi & Najwa Al-Romaim

Supervised By:

Dr. Husnia Alkadri

Yemen is fragile state with low income and one of the least developing countries with a population of 23,159,767 million in 2002. About 42 percent of them are below poverty line; largely living in rural areas 73% of the population is distributed on agricultural areas.

Between 15-16 November, 2006, friends of Yemen gathered in London to review the Yemeni social and economic progress; address the country's medium-term challenges; and assess monetary requirements to implement in the Five-Year Socio Economic Development Plan for Poverty Reduction and Programs. The conference resulted in pledges of aids to Yemen of approximately US \$ 4.7 billion for the period of 2007-2010. This significant increase in assistant represent over 85% of the Government of Yemen estimated external financing needs. By the end of 2010, Yemen received only \$547.53million of the \$ 4.7 billion pledges allocated in 2006. this result was disappointing for many including Yemenis.

The main objectives for this project is to find out the causes that hinder Yemen to absorb the 2006 London Confer-



ence allocated \$ 4.7 billion pledges.

This project is important because it discusses Yemen's foreign aid absorptive performance for 2006 London Conference allocated pledges from two dimensions; (a) Recipient country dimension (b) Donor dimension. From time perspective, this project research discuss Yemen's economic and aid absorptive performance during 2007-2010 which is the same period that 2006 London Conference pledges were allocated for.

The project is a literature review study that drawn primarily from general review of literature and report issued or commissioned by development agencies, donors, governments and re-

searchers. This project initially outlines constrains of foreign aid and absorptive capacity (part 1). Then review Yemen economic performance, aid absorption performance and the constraints of aid absorption from recipient country and donor countries (Parts 2, 3 and 4). Finally, the project present findings and propose recommendations for further guidance of foreign aid channelling instrument to Yemen.

Some of the project findings are that though Yemen received \$547.53million, it paid almost the same amount for debt services during the same period. That played a role on diverting the benefits of availability of resources of development aid. The low absorptive

capacity was caused by both the recipient and donor countries. The Yemeni government did not seriously adopt the policies and provided the necessary skilled staff to improve the communication with donors, while donor countries and agencies used lengthy durations and delay in transfers of resources in addition to their change of interests to support humanitarian, instead of development projects as Yemen moved to the square of state of fragility.

Considering the fragile state statues of Yemen that still exists, the researchers suggests that there should be a shift of programming from development to humanitarian interventions, with

country wide stabilization and social protection programmes that provide the necessary resources to improve the livelihoods of the most crises affected communities. There should be high commitment of the entire governmental ministries with all development sectors should accelerate together their sectoral strategies; adopt a programme approach instead of dispersed projects; have their feasibility studies prepared with accurate estimation of expected economic internal rate of return for such programmes; strengthening public financial system and used with adopting the policies and measures needed to ensure more accountability to donors as well as beneficiaries.

Exams of the students of the Master program batch one

The exams of the students of the Master program in the graduate program of the GDRSC were held in July. They were held under the supervision of Professor Henerick-StechierMarqusein from the Danish Roskilde University as an external examiner.

Sixteen students presented their graduate projects. They were divided into four main topics; these topics were discussed as follows:

The first topic:

Discussing the research presented by a group of students and under the supervision of Dr. Husnia Al Kaderi (as a supervisor and an internal examiner) entitled "The capability of Yemen to absorb the foreign aids".

The second topic:

Discussing the research presented



by a number of students under the supervision of Dr. Bilkis AbuAsba (as a supervisor and an internal examiner) entitled "Women issues in the National Dialogue Conference".

The third topic:

Discussing the research presented by a number of students under the supervision of Dr. Antelak Almutawakel (as a supervisor and an internal examiner) entitled "The reflections of the Arab Spring on enhancing Women Leaders in Yemen".

The fourth topic:

Discussing a research presented by a number of students under the supervision of Dr. Sabria Al-Thawr (as a supervisor and an internal examiner) entitled "The power relationship between the government organizations and local non-government organizations in Yemen". At the end of these discussions these researches were evaluated by the internal and external examiners and the students were issued the results based on this evaluation.

Friedrich Ebert Foundation Director Visits GDRSC



Dr. Bilkis Zabara, GDRSC director, received Mrs. Ariela Gross, the director of the office of the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Yemen. At the outset of the meeting, Dr Bilkis welcomed Mrs. Ariela Gross, program director, Mr. Mahmoud Kieah, and Ms. Mayada AlBaidhani, the assistant director of the programs in the organization.

The center's director discussed with Mrs. Gross the prospects of joint cooperation on the backdrop of the long experience of the organization in sup-

porting women's issues and gender. Mrs. Ariela Gross had a tour inside the departments of the center and the library, during which she was introduced to the distinguished facilities and quality of services provided to the researchers.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Abdul Wahab Abdul Qader, library project coordinator, Dr. Bilkis Abu Ausba, a political sciences lecturer in Sana'a University and Dr. Mariam Al-Jawfi, Deputy Director of the GDRS center.



Women's Issues on the NDC

Addressing women's issues cannot be done in isolation from understanding the issues of the community as a whole. Accordingly, improving the social, economic and political position of women needs to be done through effective participation in community dialogues to ensure access to rights, achieving equality and social justice that is conducive to achieving sustainable and comprehensive development for the society in all aspects of life.

The National Dialogue conference represents an opportunity that enables citizens, men and women, to find solutions for the challenges Yemen is facing. The organizers of this conference think that it is an important occasion to hold meaningful and constructive discussions to contribute to building a roadmap for Yemen. The aim of this follow-up is to shed light on the most important women's issues being discussed in the halls and corridors of the National Dialogue Conference.

At the dialogue table

The National Dialogue Conference started on 18/03/2013 and lasting for six-months. Women participated in this conference by 30%.

The participants in this conference are assigned with the task of discussing the most important issues and challenges facing the people of Yemen. The most prominent issues are: the Southern issue, the issue of Saada, good governance, state-building, transitional justice and national reconciliation, integrated development, army building and security, independence of authorities, as well as rights and freedoms.

As women's issues intersect all the themes of the conference, the focus for the women agenda will be on the rights and freedoms team as it will provide numerous decisions related to women.

According to what is stated in the report of the rights and freedoms provided to the second plenary of the conference, the most important goal for this team is to develop

concepts for constitutional principles governing the public rights and freedoms including those related to women. It also aims at setting up constitutional guarantees to keep and protect rights and freedoms as well as prepare the laws and regulations in accordance with these principles to ensure that they are not breached or violated. Moreover the team has the responsibility to submit proposals to establish independent institutions and bodies to preserve these laws.

The team of the rights and freedoms listened to international and local experts, and looked at the constitutions and legislations and Yemeni laws and accessed international conventions and treaties ratified by Yemen. The team also looked at the constitutions of a number of countries in the world, and drew opinions and suggestions from experienced and competent figures during the hearings. Opinions and proposals were drawn from the studies, researches,

and recommendations presented by the organizations and individuals through community participation, results from bulletins and reports from internal and external human rights organizations.

Women rights and freedoms

There was compatibility among the team on a number of decisions which it was agreed to submitting to the plenary for approval and to be adopted by the conference. The decisions agreed upon that are related to women are listed below:

1. The State is committed to the representation of women so that they can actively participate in the various bodies, the state authorities and the elected and appointed councils in at least 30%.
2. The State shall ensure the right of divorced women to

housing in the case of caring for their children.

3. The State shall provide protection for every mother and the community shall take care of her.

4. Equality between men and women in the blood money and indemnities should be achieved (as a constitutional principle)

5. The state shall work to support the family and to protect motherhood and childhood.

6. Women's equality with men in human dignity shall be recognized, and women should have their own civil character and their own independent financial liability.

7. The State shall encourage rural women's participation in rural development by putting and implementing development plans at all levels. The State shall in addition facilitate women's access to information, counseling, and services and to acquire all kinds of training and education, including what is related to occupation literacy and provide women with access to economic opportunities and to credit and agricultural loans and appropriate technology.

8. The State shall guarantee and take all possible means to eliminate forms of violence against women.

9. The State shall guarantee to provide all the necessary needs such as physical protection as well as economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights to women.

10. The State shall guarantee all civil and political rights for women and shall be committed to enable them to exercise all the rights of equal citizenship.

11. An Arab married to a Yemeni woman shall acquire Yemeni nationality after five years of marriage and a foreigner after 10 years and their children shall get the original nationality immediately after birth.

Regarding the items disagreed upon, are viewed and reviewed after the second plenary and enough time will be taken to discuss them so as to achieve the desired positive goals of this conference according to Ms. Arwa Othman, head of the rights and freedom team.



Under the slogan: "Hand in Hand we proceed with the dialogue to build new Yemen" rebounds

National Women's Committee holds its sixth congress

The National Women's Committee held its annual conference in its sixth session; under the slogan (Hand in hand we proceed with the dialogue to build new Yemen). The aim of the conference was to foster the status of women and to identify their priorities in line with the conference of the national dialogue and its outputs in general, in addition to the integration of women's priorities and her issues within the work of the committees of the National Dialogue Conference. Over two days, the conference discussed a number of key themes about women and their issues and their participation in public life with the participation of 400 participants and

the participation of women cadres of the Committee and its branches in the governorates, the academics and the specialists in the universities and civil society organizations, human rights activists.

Noteworthy that the conference addressed four main themes the first was represented in the foundations of state-building and gender concerns, the second was about the institutional framework of participation of women, while the third theme reviewed the issues of empowerment and development and community participation and the fourth on women's rights and their freedoms between theory and practice.

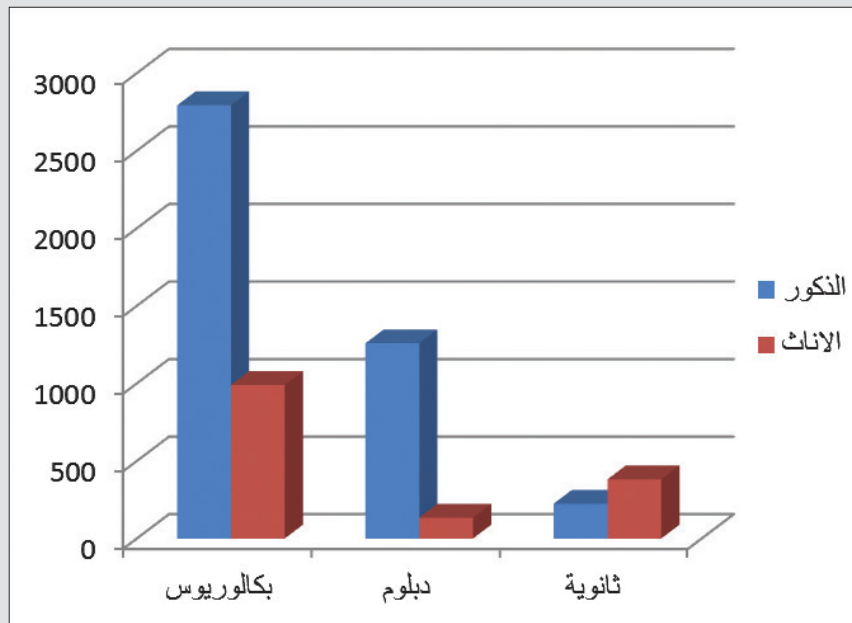
A number of research papers were presented during the conference on the role of women in the overall process of change intellectual and philosophical framework, and the constitutional framework for the promotion of women's participation in state-building and enhancing their participation towards an effective electoral system.

The presented research papers in the conference include good governance and women's participation in anti-corruption efforts and their role in the security authorities and their evaluation as well as the issue of National Committee for Women between achievement and independence



and the requirements of economic empowerment of women towards a private sector responsive to gender considerations, as well as women and transitional justice " analysis of violations of women's rights and mechanisms of treatment from the perspective of transitional justice , education and social development indicators , health care and issues of displaced between care and marginalization " application of Saada and Abyan . "

At the end of the conference the participants recommended in the area of " the foundations of state-building and gender considerations " to include in the new constitution constitutional and legal texts that enhance the role of women in nation-building in all spheres of political, social, economic and cultural, as well as modify the terms used in the next constitutional framework to take into account gender considerations.



Publications of the center

The hiring budget in the education sector from a gender perspective

- The integration of women's issues into policies and national plans and programs is vital where there is a growing realization around the world that these policies and procedures affect the lives of women and men in different ways and are full of economic and social consequences which requires the formulation of policies and plans accordingly.

- However, this matter must be based on solid research underlying these plans and programs. As the GDRSC believes in the importance of these researches, it has sought to conduct and support a number of studies that deal with gender issues.

- Perhaps a study we present in this issue can be representative of the importance of the mentioned studies as it deals with the hiring budget in the education sector from a gender perspective.

- In more details, the research was a field study for the governorates of Saada and Shabwa conducted by researchers Dr. Ibtisam Al Huwaidi and Dr. Qaid Ghillan and it discussed a theme that can be considered a key to the economic empowerment of women. The significance of the study also comes from the scarceness of scientific studies about budgets from a gender perspective, especially in the Arab world.

- Dr. Houria Mashhour Vice-President of the National Committee for Women

during the preparation of this study, gave a foreword as introduction for the study. She highlighted the necessity to focus on the women sector as the key to the development of women so as to open the prospects for her development as well as to improve her position in thier private and public life.

- The importance of the study, according to the researchers, rises from the fact that it shed light on the estimate of female employment in the education sector at the public level. Also the provinces of Saada, and Shabwa, were specifically targeted in this study, taking into consideration the question whether the budget allocation is moving towards equality between males and females in the education sector.

- The study focused on identifying the real causes behind the low recruitment of female teachers and the consequent lowered approved budget for them annually. Accordingly, the two researchers had specific goals in mind, perhaps the most important of them was to know the proportion of annual jobs obtained by females. Moreover, at the level of the Saada and Shabwa provinces the aim was to highlight the cost of the approved female teaching jobs that were implemented during the study period and highlight the size of the gap between males and females.

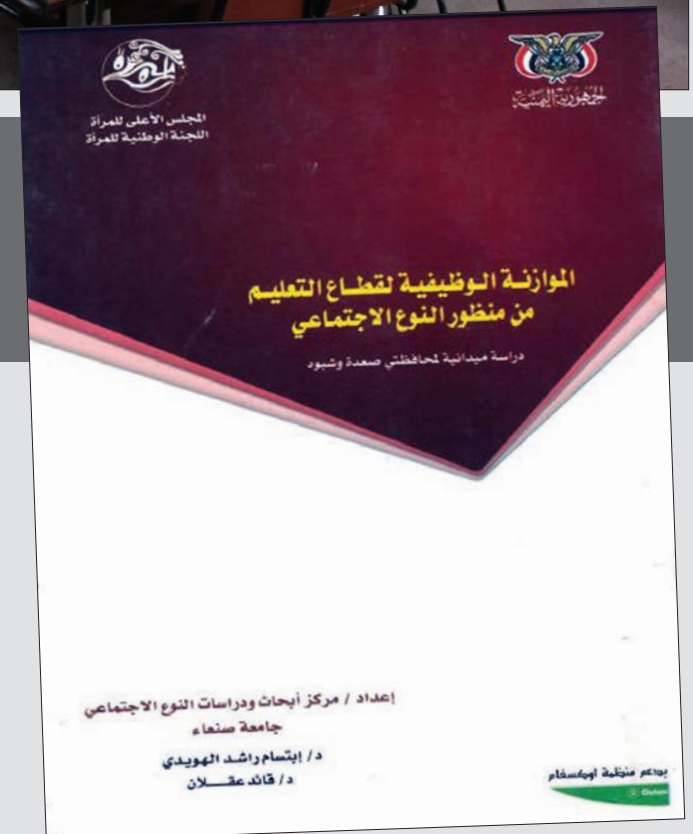
- Regarding the methodology of the

study, it relied on the collection and analysis of data related to the subject from the office study. In addition to that, questionnaires were used and semi-codified interviews were conducted with officials in the concerned ministries following a descriptive analytical method.

- The research included three studies and ended with a display of the results and recommendations :

- The first study addressed the definition of the basic concepts of this research, as well as the terminology that were used. The researchers think that the concept of sensitive budgets focuses on showing the needs of a gender perspective in all lines and items of the budget as well as at all levels to enhance the efficiency in the use of resources to achieve gender equality.

- The second study dealt with the current situation to the needs of a gender perspective in the policies and strategies related to the economic plans in Yemen in both the government statement and balance sheet. They also reviewed the goals of the second Five Year Plan as well as the third five-year plan and poverty alleviation strategy from a gender perspective, which focused on empowerment of women politically and economically. At the end of this study the structure of the general budget of the state and local authority budgets was addressed.



- The third study analyzed the data by focusing on the hiring budgets for the education sector, especially at the level of the provinces targeted in this study. Based on the analysis of the data collected, the researchers suggested that instead of the budget being decided upon at the central and local level, the Ministry of Finance should determine the annual financial ceilings for the number of new jobs according to the state's plan to reduce the number of approved jobs annually without determining the number of the approved jobs for females and males.

- The result of the research showed that

low rates of annual financial amounts are allocated for females.

- The most important point recommended by the study was to reduce the employment gap between males and females by redirecting resources within the education sector so that it goes towards achieving equitable benefit for all. For women, there must be a place and an active role in the committees preparing the budget, both at the central or local levels. Also, there should be a guarantee of the representation of women in decision-making positions to ensure that the needs of women in the various sectors are met.



Prof. Henrik Marcussen
Roskilde University

The Master programme in International Development and Gender at the GDRSC

"The Master programme in International Development and Gender at the GDRSC at University of Sana'a - established as a collaboration between the universities of Sana'a and Roskilde, Denmark, and assisted by colleagues from the American University in Cairo - is a main move forward for the improvement of the situation of gender and, more broadly, for assist-

ing the country in addressing some of the main issues in the current Yemeni transitional process.

True, the education of talented women and men in international development and gender does not provide immediate and measurable results in regard to improving the development situation of Yemen. Yet, with the graduation of the current two batches of students,

and with many more to come in the future, when the Centre gets its firm institutionally sustainable anchoring, the results will gradually show, I am sure.

Indications of that is both the continued institutional development of he GDRSC and, not least, the quality of the current students enrolled, who are showing an enormous dedica-

tion, devotion and will to engage in an academic programme, which may be of benefit for them personally in their future career planning, but also provide important inputs to broader gender equality, socio-economic development and political participation all, hopefully, in time leading to the societal improvements we all so much wish to see."



Training courses in the field of libraries

Within the framework of introducing the activities of the library and its services as well as introducing the students of the University of Sana'a to how to search in the libraries and the use of Web search for books and references, the GDRSC at Sana'a University provides free service for all students of the university through providing special training programs to develop the skills of the

researchers using modern electronic methods at the specialized global electronic sites through a technical staff trained outside and inside Yemen. To achieve this goal, the Center has organized five training sessions among a set of courses organized for the students of the fourth level for the Faculty of Computer, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of Information, as well as the students of grad-

uate studies of the Faculty of Languages, Department of Library and Information Science at the Faculty of Arts.

The number of participants in all these courses reached 125 students. The period of these courses was extended from march to July 2013.

The training material contained an introduction of the library and the services it provides and the target group.

The trainer Yahya Saleh introduced the trainees to the smart ways to search the Internet. The trainer Hafithah Al Hilama who trained the participants on how to search in the library catalogs; whether traditional or electronic references can be found easily. As for the trainer Mervat Faris, she introduced the students to how to use libraries' shelves and how to find numbers and books symbols to find the references they want. As for the loan system in libraries it has been explained by the trainer Anwar Sharabi, who has trained the students on what are the loan terms and what is required when they borrow books and what is the goal of the fines that applies to students when they delay the return of books. At the end of each course an evaluation was conducted to know the strengths and weaknesses to be remedied in the coming courses that the center intends to conduct.



This issue

Reactions and Opinions



Dr. Mona AL-Mahakeri

Editor in Chief

Not long after the release of the first gender and development issue of the Bulletin we were pleased to receive and see the reactions, comments and perceptions to the publication.

The reception of the specialists and those interested in gender and development for this publication has been inspiring and motivating for us; it reflects the need for such a publication to circulate inside the relevant bodies. This interest is represented through many opinions and suggestions that we have heard and which we welcome to receive via the e-mail of the Bulletin Newsletter@gdrsc.net.

In your hands today is the second issue of the bulletin which came to emphasize our ambitious vision and our mission aiming at promoting the concept of gender and its importance for development in Yemen. We are also eager to continue promoting the relationship of the center with the outside cultural surroundings and to highlight on this rich research resource represented by the center's library which is considered one of the most competent quality library in Yemen. The library was developed in partnership with the Danish center for Information on Gender, Equality and Diversity.

You will notice that we started to foster the academic character of the bulletin in this issue as it is issued by a specialized qualitative research center and it targets specific readers, in particular researchers, university students, local and international NGO workers. We also set out an organized and appropriate distribution plan to ensure the access of the bulletin to all the target groups.

There is no doubt that the circle of the partners of the center will expand day after day with constancy as we also plan to diversify the mechanisms of external communication with and by the center. In this regard the electronic version of the newsletter has been loaded on the website of the Center so that anyone who is interested will be able to subscribe to get the bulletin periodically via an email address.

We still look forward to hearing your opinions, to expand the bulletin's impact and allow it to have an influential resonance in the gender development research community.

Editing Workshop from a Gender Perspective

A workshop in editing was held in the center early June this year. It was presented by Tanya Holm, a Swedish journalist with expertise in the gender field.

The workshop was attended by the editorial team of the gender bulletin issued by GDRSC and the website experts.

The trainer started the workshop by an evaluative discussion for the first issue of the Quarterly Bulletin; she praised the level of the bulletin in terms of content and art design. Moreover, Mrs. Holm addressed the most important problems related to translation and the fundamental differences between editing news in English and Arabic, with a focus on the foundations of drafting in English.

Gender specialist Tanya Holm pointed out a number of foundations and basics related to journalism editing from a gender perspective.

The workshop was enriched by inputs and questions from the attendees who expressed their happiness to participate in it.

The center believes the participation to this particular training will be reflected clearly on the next version of the bulletin. At the same time, the need to hold similar workshops was also mentioned.



visit our web site:

www.webopac.gdrsc.net
gdrsclibrary@gmail.com



Gender talk with Ewa K. Strzelecka

PhD researcher at the University of Granada

Ewa Strzelecka is a PhD researcher at the University of Granada and currently also a visiting fellow at the "GDRSC". She belongs to the academic team "African: Research and Study for Development" at the University of Granada. She conducted research in a number of academic institutions and international organizations in different countries including: Yemen, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Bolivia, Poland and Spain. She has published mainly in the field of women's human rights and international development, and in particular on the topic of culture, gender and development theory and practice. Her publication can be found at <http://granada.academia.edu/EwaStrzelecka>. I meet her at the GDRSC to talk about her opinions and research.



■ By: Dr. Mona Al Mahakry

Why did you choose "Yemen" as your field of study?

It was a matter of destiny. I got a scholarship to study Arabic in Yemen. In the process of unveiling the country, I lost my heart. I was fascinated by the Yemeni culture and tradition, and especially the history of Yemeni women. I wanted to know more! That's how Yemen became my new field of study. This fascination grew into a PhD thesis on culture, gender, Islam and development. I expect to defend it by the end of this year.

What does your dissertation focus on?

When I started working on my PhD, I was very much into gender and development policy and practice. My interest focused on the role of Islam as an entry point to development, and in particular on the contribution of Islamic feminist approaches to women's empowerment in Yemen. Then, as a result of my fieldwork, I became more interested in the post-development school of thought. It has challenged the very meaning of development and the role of external assistance in women's empowerment. A new interest has been placed on exploring

the importance of women's agency and the social movement.

What are the main challenges towards gender and development practice in Yemen?

I have closely analysed a number of projects related to gender and Islam and come to the conclusion that most of their limitations are about sustainability and the advancement of Yemeni women. It has not only to do with the process of project implementation, but above all with development and political system itself. Different experiences over the world show that the feminist-oriented women's movement plays a crucial role in the process of social change in terms of gender equality and the advancement of women's rights and freedoms. There is increasing concern about the NGOization of civil society in Yemen, which resulted in demobilization of mass-based women's movements and in disconnect between gender development policies and feminist practice.

What is wrong with development projects related to women's empowerment in Yemen?

The problem is that the gender development pro-

jects usually finish when their funding runs out, which normally happens before the further stages of the women's empowerment strategy are reached. In addition, women from the poorest social classes or rural areas are often seen as project beneficiaries only and not as positive agents of change and potential partners in the struggle for women's rights. They are positioned within the society through a variety of means, such as social class, economic status, education, age, ethnicity, political affiliation, place of residence (urban-rural dichotomy) and so on. They have very different needs and interests, which are shaped in complex and sometimes conflicting ways. However, this is not to deny that women may have certain general interests in common that derive from their social position through gender attributes.

What is the most effective empowerment policy approach?

In my opinion, the most effective empowerment policy approach seeks to meet women's strategic gender interests indirectly through bottom-up mobilization around women's practical gender needs. It is also important to ensure gender-sensitive policies

and legal protection for women. Yemeni activists point out the importance of building up alliances with men who are supportive of gender equality and women's rights. I agree with this approach. However, I believe that men can act as allies, but they will never solve women's issues on behalf of women.

How has the 2011 Yemeni uprising effected the women's movement?

The 2011 Yemeni uprising opened up new opportunities for Yemeni women to get together and make their voices heard. Women's participation in the revolutionary movement has challenged the stereotypical representations of Yemeni women and proved that they are capable to solve their problems by themselves. From a local perspective, women's empowerment has been seen as a process through which women gain skills, knowledge and self-confidence to challenge patriarchal structure of power and make their own decisions regarding the life they want to lead. This process has always been undertaken within their own cultural and religious framework.

What about the future of Yemeni women's movement?

There are still many challenges to overcome in order to enhance women's rights and gender equality in Yemen. However, the current process of political transition has opened up new opportunities to articulate women's strategic gender interests in a new constitution and the national policies. The question of how they ultimately will be articulated and represented in the new state depends on many factors. It includes the capacity of the women movements to mobilize their resources and set up strategic alliances with different groups and individuals during the National Dialogue Conference in order to successfully advocate their case.



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MIDG's Second Batch Students Submit Research Proposals



Within the framework of the Master's program, the second batch graduate students reviewed their research proposals for the first semester.

The different working groups submitted the titles of the proposed projects and research plans. The following were the main themes of each proposed research:

1 - 'Decentralization in Yemen

during the past ten years (challenges, and lessons learned)', under the supervision of Dr. Yahya Mutahar.

2 - 'The tribe and the National Dialogue Conference', under the supervision of Dr. Bilkis Abu Uosba.

3 - 'Indirect gender violence, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), South Africa case study under the supervision of Dr. Husnia Al-Kadri.

4 - 'The impact of microfinance on Yemeni women', under the supervision of Dr. Antelak Al-Mutawakel.

5 - 'Culture and microfinance in Yemen', under the supervision of Dr. Sabria Al-Thawr.

These proposals were presented by students and the necessary amendments have been proposed to the students.