

**Some social factor for violence among university students in
Jordan: Case study**

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Abstract

The aim of this was to identify some important social characteristics of university students involved in violence in Jordan. Case study method was applied through taking one of the Jordanian universities, which represent the Jordanian society as a structure students (from rural and urban areas). Data were obtained through documentary research for all files and documents related to violence among students for the period

- . Needed permission was obtained from the collage of student affairs.

Results indicated that university violence is mainly male oriented, and not serious (only hand fighting and verbal insulting). Violence among female students was mainly verbal insulting.

Results also indicated that student in Art majors (including law and business) and with law grand point averages are more likely to be involved in violence. Free time between lectures in Art majors seem to be a fertile environment for violence, unlike students in science colleges where they should take lab hours with almost every course, in addition to field experiments and research. This as a result reduces free time available.

Introduction

Jordan is considered one of the leading nations in education where almost half of the population is enrolled in primary and higher education.

Education, in fact, is a key for employment and social relations. Therefore, Jordan is classified the third country in the world in higher education (Ministry of Higher Education, Annual Report). Therefore, there is about public and private universities in Jordan, with total number of students of (same ref). As a result, more violence started to take place lately such as fighting, aggressive behavior and so on.

Violence is defined by some researchers as (illegal behavior in order to achieve certain gains through causing material or emotional damage to others (Tarawneh). Such damage may vary from society to another.

Thus, while violence in American universities started to appear in the form of carrying weapons, violence in Jordan started to take the form of group fighting and property damage.

Researchers examined violence in schools and universities. For some, violence can be explained by social factors such as tribal and religious factors prevailed in certain geographic or regional areas (Garbarino,). Other researchers examined biological, environmental and psychological factors behind students involving in violence. This would include chemical structure of the body, adolescence, nerve system, family relationships, and imitation, (Kashani , and Tarawneh)

In the past few years, Jordanian universities started to seriously suffer from various violent acts above the normal average. Thus, this research will give some light on this problem in a hope that it will give some help to decision makers and academic people involved in promoting better future for higher education.

Background

Mere and Abdel Haq () concluded that cheating is very familiar among students due to their fear from exams regardless of sex or grand point average. Abdel Moktar () argued that violence among students is mainly due to the violent behavior from parents towards their childhood stages. He added also that television movies on violence push some students to practice such violent act in their relationship with others (Radek), However, examined the impact of gangs and prejudice on students who committed violence while Jackson () focused on the impact of congested and crowded environment that cause students to feel nervous and then involved in violence.

Finally, Elsarhan () suggested that the problems and violence that students face in their universities may negatively influence the role of universities in developing student's knowledge and awareness on the other hand.

Abdel Jawad and Tarawneh added that the age of - years is the most frequent among students involved in violence. He added that students from public areas are more involved in violence, unlike students from other areas.

Based on the above , it seems that while violence in school was studied from several directions and subjects , violence in universities did not attract the attention of researchers , may be because of the fact that university student should be mature enough to avoid violence. Thus, this research should partially cover this subject.

Methodology:

Universities in Jordan do face an increasing threat in the form of student violence. This problem, in fact should be truly studied in order to create a safe academic environment. Therefore, this study will focus on the following question: what are the main social characteristics of students involved in violent acts. This should include: sex, academic major, grand point average, and type of violence.

Case study method will be applied in this research through taking one of the Jordanian private universities in which there will be students from all social class and regions in Jordan. And due to the nature of this problem, the research will carry out a documentary research through the files and documents related to violence which are available in the collage of student's affairs. Data and results will be presented in the form of tables with percentages. All of this will be carried out after taking legal steps from the university officials.

Results and discussion:

Table number one indicated that violence in the Jordanian university is not serious or organized where hand fighting represents the most frequent violence , followed by verbal insulting , cheating in exams , and the rest other violent acts such as property destruction, sexual harassment, traffic accidents, theft and other.

It is a well known fact that students in the adolescence stage turn to be short temper, nervous, less friendly and so on. This fact may push students to be involved in fighting with others by hands or through verbal insulting, where of university violence is represented in these two types of violence.

On the other hand, sexual harassment and theft are not frequent because of the fact that the Jordanian society is very conservative and, thus, there is no room for such types of violence.

This fact becomes clearer if we look at table # which shows that female involvement in violence is only , while , of university violence is mainly committed by men. The family child development in Jordan does care too much about girl's behavior than about boys. In fact, girls represent the honor of the family and even her tribe. Therefore, high degree of attention will be given for girl's behavior in comparison with boys. In the long run, girl's development is well controlled, while boys' development is much less controlled, and their behavior can be easily justified due to adolescence, manhood feeling, and lack of parent's supervision.

Table # explains more the above conclusion, where of the female violence was represented in verbal insulting, followed by exam cheating , theft , and others . No hand fighting as the case with male students. Thus, when we discuss violence among university students, we should put the fact very clear that it is male oriented and male limited. Added to all of this, verbal insulting and exam cheating can be referred to the high degree of pressure or tension that girls face in their daily life or in exams. This conclusion was supported by other researchers such as (Abdalmuktar)

Concerning the relationship between violence and university colleges, table # indicated that science colleges (including pharmacy nursing and engineering) represented only of the sample, while Arts colleges (including law, management, and economy) represented . Thus, it seems very clear that students with science majors are less involved in violence. In fact, pharmacy students represented only .

There is no doubt that the students in science colleges are more serious in their study and their relationships with others. Added to this is the fact that they normally should enroll in many labs, experiments, field and research. This leaves less or no time to be spent with other students out of the classroom. More free time between lectures seems to push students to be involved in some activities and groups that would lead to negative activities and violence. It is well known that friends have a high degree of influence on student's behavior as other research concluded (Radek,).

Finally table # indicated that most students who involved in violence had a grand point Average (GPA) of accepted or less (about), followed by GPA of good , followed by GPA of very good , while non of the sample had an Excellent GPA.

Thus, students with low or weak GPA are more likely to be involved in violent activities. This should not mean that low GPA causes violence. This is a different case. But students with low GPA seem to be variable to commit violent activities.

Conclusion:

Violence becomes a serious problem faces universities in Jordan as well as other countries. This research concluded, that university violence in Jordan is male oriented, where hand fighting and verbal insulting are the most frequent among male students, while verbal insulting is the most frequent among females. This research also concluded that students from Art colleges and with low GPA are more likely to be involved in violence.

Based on the above conclusions, universities should fill the free time between lectures by involving students in passive daily activities and not only lectures. This should include more open areas in and out side colleges and buildings, in order to reduce fractions in crowded areas. Special arrangements should be given to students in Art colleges, especially to those with low GPA. This can be done through academic and non academic activities, such as playing, movies, job training, library research, and rush-problem solving activities.

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