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ABSTRACT

Rethinking Economics within the Framework of Neoliberal Economics Educational System in Palestinian Universities

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Background: This research aims to challenge the conventional neoclassical approach to economics in Palestine and promote a more interdisciplinary and holistic understanding of the subject. By examining the shift from political economy to neoclassical economics globally, this study will explore the impact of neoliberal ideologies in education on economics students and in return the world's economic policies. Drawing from the global context, this research will focus its analysis on the education of economics in Palestine. The research will rely on literature reviews, one-to-one interviews with Palestinian economists and professionals, and surveys distributed to economics students to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current situation in Palestinian universities and the implications of neoclassical thinking.

The study will provide insights into the historical development of economic thought, the emergence of neoliberalism, and its impact on the Palestinian economy. It will also suggest alternative approaches to mainstream economics that could be used to improve the current socio-economic reality in Palestine. The research project will be approached from a critical perspective, challenging the dominant neoclassical ideology and exploring alternative theories that could be applied in the Palestinian context. The ultimate goal is to provide economic educational policy recommendations and contribute to the development of a more sustainable and equitable economy in Palestine.

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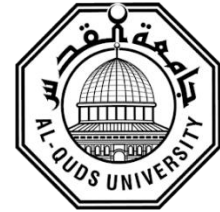
Objectives: The overall goal of this research is to urge every Palestinian, especially economics students in Palestine to rethink economics, economic policies, and the education of it using interdisciplinary approaches and holistic tools. In global and local contexts, the need to create new economists who understand the world's economy and the Palestinian economy in practically relevant terms, away from the neoliberal mainstream ways is urgent. This research will look into the shift of economic thought from what was practiced as political economy and open to pluralist perspectives to neoclassical.

It is expected that this research will provide a better understanding of the historical trajectories of economic thought, the emergence of neoliberalism, and the current implications of neoclassical thinking worldwide and Palestine in specific. It will also provide insight into the current situation of Palestinian universities and students, and suggest alternatives to the current teachings of economics.

Methods: The research design incorporates a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic. The first two chapters of the research rely heavily on qualitative analysis, drawing on previous academic resources such as books and articles. To complement this, one-to-one interviews were conducted with economists and economics professors at a number of Palestinian universities to gather their perspectives on the topic. The interviews aimed to gather their perspectives on the effects of neoliberal education in the context of economics in Palestine and economics students, reflecting on their experiences and the outcomes it produces in Palestinian economists.

In the third chapter, the research approach becomes more mixed, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative elements. A survey was designed to collect data from economics students on a range of economic topics and to gain deeper insights into their views on economics and economic policies. The data collected through the survey is being analyzed and tested to further advance the research findings.

Results: The research results are still undergoing analysis, but initial findings suggest some intriguing insights into the perspectives of Palestinian economics students. After surveying 50 students from different universities, the data is being analyzed through a value-based mechanism,



where the level of agreement on specific survey statements provides insights into the students' views on economics.

So far, the research has found that around 61% of students believe it is crucial to understand the analysis of the "free market" concept in economics, while 67% agree that joint ventures with Israel in high-tech would benefit the Palestinian economy. Additionally, almost 55% of students consider statistics and data analysis to be the most important fields to study to become a successful economist.

These results highlight the dominance of neoclassical theory in shaping the understanding of economics among Palestinian students, neglecting the complex socio-political reality of the Palestinian economy. There is a narrow and limited perspective dominating student thinking, reducing the understanding of economics to a purely monetary viewpoint and ignoring the broader context of the Palestinian case's complexity.

These results are just a snapshot of the ongoing analysis, but they already provide valuable insights into the perspectives of Palestinian economics students and the impact of neoclassical theory on their views. More to be said and further investigated whilst finalizing the research.

Conclusions: The conclusion is yet to be determined. However, the overall conclusion will most certainly draw policy recommendations and alternative educational approaches in the field of economics, matching the finalized research results.

Keywords: Economics, Neoclassical Economics, Pluralist Economics, Education, Economic Policy, Rethinking Mainstream Economics, Palestinian Economics Students, Universities, Neoliberalism, Economic Policy.