

**Deanship of Graduate Studies
Al-Quds University / School of Public Health**

**Follow Up Study of Public Health Graduates
(1998-2003) at Al-Quds University**

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ENDORSEMENT

Follow Up Study of Public Health Graduates (1998-2003) at Al-Quds
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Dedication

To my husband for his continuous support and encouragement
To my Father to whom I owe all success and progress in my life,
to my little beautiful baby "Batool", and to my lovely mother,
sisters and brothers

Declaration

No portion of the work referred to in this thesis has been submitted to an application for any other degree or qualification to this or any other university or institution of learning.

Maysa' Khalid Al-Younis
2004

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ABSTRACT

Follow Up Study of Public Health Graduates (1998-2003) at Al-Quds University

Higher education institutes should justify their existence and investigate the quality of services they introduce to the graduates as well as to the society. This follow up study has emerged to highlight the contribution of the School of Public Health (SPH) at Al-Quds University in producing qualified and responsible professionals who equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for the growth and development of the labour market and their community.

Students are perceived by many educators as key stakeholders in the learning process and the most valuable resource of reliable data about the quality of their education. Therefore a written questionnaire was distributed to all graduates of the SPH at Al-Quds University (n=98) in the West Bank (WB) and Gaza Strip (GS), who have graduated during the period 1997-2003. Content validity of the questionnaire was established through experts from the SPH at Al-Quds University. The reliability was high ($\alpha = 0.96$).

The results of this follow up study revealed the degree of graduate's satisfaction with their personal and professional growth and the impact of their study experience on their lives. Variations were noticed between WB and GS graduates regarding their satisfaction and agreement with certain aspects of the study environment and the ability of the program to meet its objectives and goals from the graduate's perception. Graduates emphasized the importance of teaching research approaches and asked for advanced courses and more credit hours for research. On the other hand, they criticized the computer course and the library holdings and described them as insufficient in meeting graduates needs of using technology and recent publications related to their field of study.

The information gained from graduates is expected to form a basis of rich source of data that should be used by key individuals responsible for higher education institutes to reevaluate the message of higher education and its responsibility to invest those human resources in more efficient way to cope with the rapid changes in technology and mass of knowledge in the world which dramatically affects development in our society.

In addition, graduate's perception of their education should be taken seriously by the administration of the SPH at Al-Quds University to insure excellence and quality of its programs, services, faculty, and consequently graduates.

دراسة متابعة و تقييم لخريجي الصحة العامة (1998-2003) في جامعة القدس

على مؤسسات التعليم العالي أن تبرر أسباب وجودها وأن تتحرى نوعية الخدمات المقدمة لطلبة التعليم العالي وللمجتمع. في هذا الإطار ظهرت هذه الدراسة لإلقاء الضوء على مساهمة كلية الصحة العامة في جامعة القدس في إنتاج مهنيين مؤهلين ومسؤولين ومزودين بالمعرفة والخبرة اللازمة لنمو وتطور سوق العمل والمجتمع.

يرى العديد من الباحثين أن الطلبة يشكلون عنصر أساسي ومسؤول في العملية التعليمية ومصدر قيم لمعلومات يمكن الاعتماد عليها لفحص نوعية تعليمهم، لذلك تم توزيع استبانة على كافة الطلبة الخريجين البالغ عددهم 98 خريج في الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة الذين تخرجوا ما بين الفترة 1997 - 2003. تم فحص مصداقية محتوى الاستبانة من قبل خبراء من جامعة القدس، وقد كان معامل الثبات (الفأ) عالي ويساوي (0.96).

بينت نتائج هذه الدراسة درجة رضى الخريجين عن تطورهم الشخصي والمهني وتأثير خبرتهم الدراسية على حياتهم، ولوحظ اختلاف بين خريجي الضفة وغزة بالنسبة لرضاهم وموافقتهم على نواحي معينة كالجو الدراسي وقدرة البرنامج على تحقيق أهدافه من وجهة نظر الخريجين، وأكد الخريجون على أهمية تدريس طرق البحث العلمي وطالبوا بمساقات متقدمة للبحث العلمي وزيادة عدد ساعاته المعتمدة، كما أن الخريجين انتقدوا مساق الكمبيوتر ومحتويات المكتبة ووصفوا عدم كفايتها في تلبية احتياجات الخريجين في الاستفادة من التقدم التكنولوجي والمباحث الحديثة التي لها علاقة بدراساتهم.

من المتوقع أن تشكل المعلومات التي تم جمعها من الخريجين مصدر غني على المسؤولين في مؤسسات التعليم العالي استخدامه في إعادة تقييم رسالة التعليم العالي ومسؤوليته في استثمار المصادر الإنسانية بطريقة فعالة تواكب التغيرات السريعة في التقدم التكنولوجي والكم الهائل من المعلومات في العالم والتي بدورها تؤثر على حركة التطور في مجتمعنا.

بالإضافة لذلك، إن وجهة نظر الخريجين لتعليمهم يجب أن تؤخذ بجدية من قبل إدارة كلية الصحة العامة في جامعة القدس للتأكيد على امتياز وجودة البرامج، الخدمات المقدمة، الهيئة التدريسية، وبالتالي الخريجين.

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List of Abbreviation

- AAU: The Association of American Universities
- BSN: Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- CCHE: Colorado Commission on Higher Education
- CU: Colorado University
- HEDS: Higher Education Data Sharing
- HMIS: Health Management Information System
- ICPH: The Institute of Community and Public Health
- LPN: Licensed Practical Nurses
- MCMH: Master of Community Mental Health
- MHS: Master of Health Sciences
- MOH: Ministry of Health
- MPH: Master of Public Health
- NAGPS: The National Association of Graduate – Professional Students
- NGOs: Non- Governmental Organizations
- NHSC: National Health Services Corps
- PCBS: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
- PNP: Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- PVCC: Piedmont Virginia Community College
- RN: Registered Nurse
- SFU: Simon Fraser University
- SPH: School of Public Health
- SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences
- UBC: University of British Columbia
- UCHSC: University of Colorado Health Sciences Center