

Reasons for sending children to private schools from parents' and principals' view points at Ramallah and Al Bireh Governorate.

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to identify the reasons for sending the children to the private schools from their parents' and Principals' view. And the responsible authorities of education in Palestine can get the great benefits from the study's conclusion. It also offers some recommendations which represent a guideline to the governorate and national level in order to promote the role of private schools and develop them as well as the governmental educating sector.

The researcher uses descriptive approach. The study population consists of (13720) parents; it is the number of private schools' students assuming that each student has one parent, in addition to (41) principals representing (41) private schools, excluding the private schools which are dedicated for disabled students due to incompatibility with study's question.

A cluster sample of (10) private schools was taken. One class was chosen with all its divisions, so the parents' sample reaches (302) individuals while the principals' sample is (41) individuals which represents the whole study population, only (40) answered the questionnaire. This study conducted in the private schools in Ramallah and Al Bireh governorate at the beginning of the school year 2011/2012.

The researcher uses the questionnaire as a tool to achieve the objectives' of the study. The questionnaire consists of (61) items divided into (5) areas. A group of (16) specialists examined its validity. The reliability coefficient was calculated by Cronbach's Alpha formula which was (0.922) for all paragraphs.

The researcher analysed statistically the individuals' answers using the statistical software packages for the social studies (SPSS).

The conclusions show that the most reasons which motivated parents to send their children to private school were: its interest in teaching English language, imposing a uniform, developing its students' personality, providing equal

opportunities for learning to all its students, having facilities such as libraries and laboratories, forbidding the corporal punishments, and its advanced administrative and leading system. According to principals, the reason was that these schools characterized by a good administrative and leading system in addition to well reputation and experience of the school's principal.

Upon the examination of the hypotheses, the results show that there is no difference in the statistical significant of the parents' views average according to these variables (gender, educational level, economical level, the number of family's members, and the nature of master's job).

While the statistical significant differences were being in the variable of the place of residence, the differences were in favor of the city's residents rather than villages' or refugee camps' concerning the reasons of sending the children to private schools.

As for principals, there is a relationship between sending the children to private schools and the variables of principals' experience, while the difference was being in gender in favor of female principals and elementary schools' principals rather than secondary schools owners.

The study recommends the necessity of paying attention to the private education sector and attempting to develop it. The study also advises the responsible authorities on governmental education to take advantage of this study and try to meet parents expectations in public schools.