



The BZU Development Studies Programme

The Development Studies Programme (DSP) at Birzeit was established in 1997 as a specialized policy and research-oriented programme for development issues which link the academic and policy-making communities. The DSP grew out of the university-affiliated Human Development Project which produced the first Human Development Profile on Palestine in 1997.

A committee of university academic and administrative personnel supervises the Programme's activities. In addition to its own programme goals, DSP coordinates with local institutions and international agencies on projects requiring research expertise in the development field. The Programme currently receives funding support from the Government of Japan through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Mission

The DSP endeavors to provide and interpret developmental concepts and frameworks which will aid in understanding the political, economic and social changes now taking place in Palestinian society and in prompting sustain development planning. The programme also aims to raise public awareness of development issues in order to improve individual and institutional capabilities, to enable and empower the community to contribute effectively to the development process.

Objectives and activities

To achieve these goals, the DSP:

- * Conducts academic and policy-oriented research and studies;
- * Prepares and publishes the human development report on Palestine;
- * Provides library and outreach services through the DSP resource center;
- * Encourages academic institutions to integrate development concepts into their curriculum by preparing an academic programme in the field of development studies;
- * Organizes a diversity of community outreach activities, including conferences, workshops and symposia which bring together various sectors concerned with development issues.

Palestine Human Development Report 2002



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