**Symposium 9**

**From isolated impact to collective impact: A creation of new center for innovation in education (ACIE) in the Arab society in Israel**

**ACIE- Al-Qasemi Center for Innovation in Education**

**Chairperson**: Dr. Baha Zoabi

**Discussant**: Dr. Nazeh Natur

**Presenters:**

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**Duration**: 90 minutes

**Abstract:**

The findings of the PISA and Meitzav tests reveal significant gaps between students in Arab society and students in Jewish society in the State of Israel, favoring the latter. A difference can also be seen between the results of the students in Arab society and the results of students from other OECD countries. Although the proportion of students in Israeli-Arab society eligible for matriculation has risen in recent years, there has yet to be an increase in the proportion of students eligible for high-quality matriculation which includes five study units in mathematics, physics, and English.

These students continue to study at institutions of higher education in traditional vocations that are prevalent and enjoy high status in Arab society; they are less inclined to enter innovative study fields suited to the demands of the job market and global innovation. It should also be noted that the number of companies or entrepreneurs from Arab society that have registered patents with the Israeli and international patent authorities has, in recent years, been very small.

In light of the above, it can be stated that the education system in Arab society is characterized by a strong pursuit of achievements and the consumption of information, rather than a desire to create information. This reflects the traditional methods of teaching and assessment prevalent in the Arab educational system. Accordingly, there is a need for collective change in the Arab education system in order to respond to every student in every school and class. This change should nurture gifted and outstanding students, who do not appear to have received a proper response to date, while at the same time fostering their creative and innovative potential.

The goal that emerges from the needs of Arab society in Israel is to maximize creativity and innovation in every student in the education system through the study and nurture of productive thinking and skills among all school students, from early childhood through to the institutions of higher education in Israeli-Arab society. In order to achieve this goal, it is imperative that a body be established to guide this process. Al-Qasemi Academic College of Education has taken on this responsibility, and over the past year has established the Al-Qasemi Center for Innovation in Education.

As noted above, the Center’s overall goal is to maximize the creative and innovative potential of all students in the Arab education system in Israel, from early childhood through higher education.

In order to achieve the aforementioned goal, some of the staff members at the Al-Qasemi Center for Innovation in Education have undergone special training with staff from the International Center for Innovation in Education (ICIE) in the field of teaching productive thinking and skills. This will help nurture creativity and innovation among students and includes training in the use of tools to locate creative potential among children and adults. The Center will operate in accordance with the collective impact approach and its conditions in order to secure its overall goal throughout Arab society in the State of Israel.

**The Units of the Al-Qasemi Center for Innovation in Education**

**Training Unit**: In order to run its various unique programs, the Center requires suitable staff. Accordingly, staff members must undergo appropriate training programs. The Training Unit aims to train suitable staff members to lead the Center’s different programs, both among students and among teachers and officials in the education system in Arab society.

**Development and Programs Unit**: This unit develops and runs new programs as needed in order to secure the Center’s goals. The Center currently runs several programs with students and with teachers and officials:

Programs for students: Daily two-hour enrichment program after the end of the school day at schools in Arab society; summer vacation school program – summer camps; English study program for children based on making movies. Future programs planned for students planned for the coming year will focus in particular on the populations of gifted and outstanding students and students at risk.

Programs for trainee teachers, teachers, and school officials: A multicultural course at the different colleges for trainee teachers in the track for outstanding students, promoting the development of creative leadership; an entrepreneurial leadership program for trainee teachers in the outstanding student track; a teacher residency program training students to teach mathematics at the level of five study units; co-teaching; simulation in education; MOOCS for productive thinking, creativity, and innovation; studying for a teaching certificate for work with gifted and outstanding children; courses for teaching students and youth at risk; and focused professional development for teachers, deputy principals, and principals in creativity and innovation in education.

**Diagnosis and Location Unit**: This unit will focus on diagnosing and locating creative potential among students in schools in Arab society through the use of the Evaluation of Potential Creativity (EPoC) tool. It will also diagnose creative functional potential (creative profiler) among trainee teachers, teachers, and officials in the education system in Arab society.

**Assessment Unit**: This unit is responsible for the assessment of all the Center’s programs, and provides assessment services for external programs of the Ministry of Education and of various organizations involved in nurturing innovation in education.

**Information and Publication Unit**: This unit is responsible for the Center’s publications, including the Center’s quarterly newsletter and magazine. The unit is also responsible for collating printed and digital information sources used in the Center’s work.

**Computer and Marketing Unit**: This unit is responsible for designing and managing the Center’s website and for designing brochures for the Center’s various programs. This unit also attends to the technical and pedagogical management of the digital courses and the Center for Educational Simulation.