

The Role Of Palestinian Universities In Empowering Ba Students National Identity

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Abstract:

This study conducted to determine the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity. The study conducted during the First semester of the academic year 2022-2023, using the descriptive approach. The population consisted of all of Palestine Technical University Kadoorie - Ramallah Branch university students for the academic year 2022-2023, which were (1761). The sample consisted of (445) students. The researcher used the questionnaire to achieve the goals of the study. The study results showed that The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity was High, with a mean of (3.74), it showed there were no statistically significant differences due to place of residence, collage, and academic level. However, there were statistically significant differences due to gender refers to male students.

Keywords: Universities, Palestine Technical University, Empowering, BA Students, National Identity.

Introduction

Identity is a powerful component in developing the most fundamental aspects of social values and bring up several features of life, such as beliefs, attitudes, values, cultural and social status development of the identity is coordinated with the growing and evolution of an individual during their lifetime (Gelisli, 2014).

Childhood consider as a dynamic age of identity development as youth become more and more aware of who they are and what their various identities mean to them Identity development is discernable by two separate yet alike components of investigation and obligation in which individuals seek to discover their identity and achieve a sense of clarity about it (Perez, 2020, 25).

Identity has a flexible nature and affect by some factors during dissimilar periods of life such as interior and external elements, age, gender, and cultural forms. Meanwhile, because of the essential of identity creation in youth life, and its effect on the adulthood, giving care to the creation and improvement of identity in youth is very significant. With Note that the building of a positive identity in teenage years can concrete the way for the improvement of individuals and support them taking benefit of their chances (PayandehDariNejad et al, 2021, 257)

Young who have discovered their own nationality and have a clear logic of it in their mind, are usually better off than adolescents who do not have a perfect understanding of their nationality, Therefore, seeing the significance of national identity in youth age, and discovering ways to improve the quality of life and shrink unhappiness

in students through this tough age is a very important issue to be aware of (Asmari-Bardezard, et al, 2021, 8)

Seeking national unity is very essential to keep national integration, wide-ranging, pluralistic, and accepting attitudes, as well as respecting living with love and peace have to be recognized. Heterogeneity and plurality in the perspective of social communication, either horizontal or vertical, as the fact of variety need for open, inclusive accepting and pluralistic-educational tools (Mukhibat, & Effendi, 2020, 2548), that's why Education should be one of the important tools as a medium for the nation and character building At a time when internal division has become an inherent characteristic of Palestinian society for the last decades.

Higher education is the good manners ground for nonviolent negotiations about the concerns of national identity and how national complaints could be fixed peacefully. However, to understand this vision, certain organizational and formal basics like unsettling the unfair structures were essential. Higher education just offers the principles of this change (Huerta et al., 2021, 2), besides, national identity is symbolized by symbols such as national identity, national flag, and national anthem. National symbols are used very effectively especially in higher education (Köroğlu & Elban, 2020, 55).

Higher education help form a cooperative national identity, by refereeing feelings of alienation and finding paths for dynamic involvement of equal citizens in social, political, and cultural life, since state alone cannot defeat radicalization, rather local publics and organizations have the most actual influence on desistence and disconnection, by offering different sites (Sahar & Kaunert, 2022, 204).

Gaps in the Literature:

As university students are the responsible of building the Palestinian society, which is exposed to many political pressures from various parties, there is a lack of studies conducted on the national identity of them, especially those that focused on Palestine technical university students, since it is the first governmental university in Palestine, which represent a very wanted university for a lot of students form all the cites of Palestine.

The originality of the present study:

Students are the most important elements for building the society, therefor; there is a need to build their national identity very carefully, because if we do not, then they will be less likely to acknowledge the dangerous that are part of their nation's history.

The problem of the study is based on around the main question: **what is the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity?**

Aim of the study

The purpose of the study is Examine the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity. To acknowledge if there are statistical differences in The Role of Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender, place of residence, Collage, academic level.

Research Question

The Main Question: What degree is The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity?

Based on the main question the following sub-question formed:

Is there a difference in the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender, place of residence, Collage, academic level?

Study Hypothesis:

1. There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender.
2. There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to place of residence.
3. There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to Collage.
4. There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to academic level.

The significance of the Study:

The importance of the study appears by shedding light on an important topic that affects society in general, which is the national identity of university students, as they represent the base on which society is established, its values, and its national identity keepers and defenders.

Definition of Terms:

Identity: is the representation of how an individual perceives themselves and how others perceive them (Burbano, 2017). Psychologists use the term identity to describe personal identity or the traits that make a person unique. (Perez,

2020, 27) explains identity as the distinctive combination of personality characteristics and social style by which one defines oneself, and by which, others (Tsang, Hui & Law, 2012) recognize one.

National identity: is the magnitude to which an individual appreciates and actively engages in his or her own cultural values, traditions, beliefs, and behaviors (Nesdale, Rooney, & Smith, 1997). For many, ethnic identity answers the question “Who am I?” and it provides a sense of belonging (Perez, 2020, 29)

Methods (Design of the Study):

The current study adopted the descriptive analytical approach. After collecting the data, the researcher used the analytical-statistical method to answer the question of the study and interpreted the results.

Population and sample of the study:**Population of the study:**

The population of the study consisted of all students at Palestine Technical University Kadoorie - Ramallah Branch University. The total Number was (1761).

Sample of the Study:

From this population (445) sample of students from a random cluster chosen to respond to the questionnaire.

Table (1): statistical description of the research sample according to demographic variables

Demographic Variables		No.
Gender	Male	65
	Female	380
	Total	445
Place of residence	City	90
	Village	205

	Camp	150
	Total	445
	Media	20
	Arts	40
Academic Specialization	Sports	15
	Management	350
	Technology and computer	20
	Total	445
	First	161
Academic Level	second	120
	third	95
	fourth	64
	Postgraduate	5
	Total	445

Instruments of the study:

The researcher developed Questionnaire to examine The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity. The researcher developed the questionnaire, which consists of two sections. The first section included personal information about the respondents. The second section included (25) items, to investigate The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity, The researcher developed the questionnaire with 3-point Likert scales ranging from strongly agree - strongly disagree. The questionnaires distributed to (500) students.

Validity of Instruments:

To ensure that the content of the questionnaire was valid, it was handed to juries of professional doctors in the field. The Panel of judges asked to evaluate the opportunities of the instrument to the whole purpose of the study. They accepted the items and the parts of the questionnaire, but they asked the researcher to follow some

modifications. The researcher took these recommendations into amount before issuing the final draft of the tool, and then the instrument distributed to the subject of the study.

Reliability of Instruments:

Cronbach's Alpha Value for the questionnaire was (84.6%) which is appropriate for the purposes of the study.

Procedures of the study:

The study carried out in the following manner:

1. The relevant literature reviewed to establish the theoretical background of the study.
2. The population identified and the samples selected on which the instruments will be applied.
3. The questions of the study put up, depending on previous studies.
4. The reliability and validity of the instruments approved.
5. The researcher distributed the instruments on students.

6. The instrument were distributed and gathered in the First semester of the scholastic year 2022-2023.
7. The data was gathered and analyzed by using SPSS program.
8. The researcher explained the information to reveal whether the outcomes agree or disagree with previous studies.

Variables of the study:

1. **Independent variables:** Gender (Female/Male), Place of residence (Camp/Village/City), collage (Media/Arts/Sports/Management/Technology and computer), Academic Level (First/second/third/fourth/Postgraduate).

2. **Dependent variables:** The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity.

Data Analysis:

In order to analyze the data, the researcher used statistical Package for social science (SPSS), descriptive statistics (means, frequencies, percentage, and Std. Deviation) and inferential statistics. (Independent T-test, one-way ANOVA, LSD and Cronbach Alpha).

Results related to the first question:

What degree is The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity?

Table (2): means, Std. Dev. and degrees of the items of the questionnaire.

#	Item	Mean	Std. Dev.	Degree
3	University helps me discover the impact of my Palestinian identity on my life	4.01	0.71	High
10	The university contributes to strengthening my national identity values	3.98	0.85	High
1	The university helps me to be proud of being a Palestinian citizen	3.95	0.88	High
8	Celebrating the National Day at university enhances the national spirit	3.91	0.79	High
5	The university helps me discover the impact of division on Palestine	3.83	0.81	High
23	I support participating in student activities that preserve the unity of Palestine	3.83	0.80	High
25	The university taught me that Palestine has a great cultural heritage	3.78	0.76	High
21	Struggle for self-affirmation key to solidifying the foundations of our identity	3.78	0.81	High
14	The university, entrenches the national identity in our souls	3.77	0.76	High
16	many people in the world regard the Palestinians as an intelligent people	3.77	0.86	High
11	The university holds various activities to develop national identity	3.76	0.91	High
18	The world looks with admiration at the civilization of Palestine	3.75	0.96	High
22	The university teaches me that my commitment to Palestine comes first, then the rest of the other commitments	3.75	0.88	High
12	University encourages students to display their national identity at all times	3.74	0.76	High
24	The university's social media is keen to strengthen my national identity	3.74	0.85	High
19	many of the neighboring countries see the Palestinians as a violent people	3.73	1.01	High
13	University is keen to teach students everything new about national identity	3.73	1.01	High
20	the countries of the world count a thousand accounts for the Palestinians	3.69	0.83	High
6	Patriotic spirit is embodied in various student activities	3.67	1.04	High

4	Books on the history of Palestine are available at the university	3.65	1.08	High
17	Palestinians are often treated badly in the countries to which they emigrate	3.65	0.90	High
9	Students accept to read books related to the history of Palestine	3.62	0.91	High
2	I feel the weakness of the ties that unite me to the rest of the students	3.57	0.93	High
7	Curricula promote national identity	3.54	0.86	High
15	The reputation of the Palestinian individual has deteriorated	3.47	0.97	Moderate
Total		3.74	0.20	High

The results in table (2) show that The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity was High, with a mean of (3.74) over/out of (5).

Results related to the second question:

Is there a difference in The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender, place of residence, collage, academic level?

To answer this question, the researcher investigated the following hypothesis:

Results related to the first Hypothesis:

There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used independent t-test as table (3) shows: The results of independent t-test for the differences in participant's responses related to The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender.

Table (3): Results of the independent t-test for gender variable.

gender	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	t	df	Sig.
male	65	3.78	0.25	4.40	441	0.00
female	380	3.47	0.29			

The results in table (3) show that the level of significance for the differences in participant's responses related to The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender is (0.00) this means that there are statistically significant

differences at ($\alpha < 0.05$) and for favor of male students. Thus, the hypothesis rejected.

Results related to the second Hypothesis:

There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to place of residence.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used one-way ANOVA- test, table (4) shows: the distribution of the Role of Palestinian Universities

in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to place of residence.

Table (4): the results of ANOVA- test for the differences in the participant's responses related to the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to place of residence.

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	210.83	24.00	8.78	11.06	0.07
Within Groups	8813.04	11100.00	0.79		
Total	9023.87	11124.00			

The results in table (4) show that the level of significance for the differences in the participant's responses related to The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to place of residence is (0.07) this means that there are no statistically significance differences at ($\alpha < 0.05$). Thus, the hypothesis accepted.

Results related to the third Hypothesis:

There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to Collage.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used one-way ANOVA- test, table (5) shows: the distribution of the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to Collage.

Table (5): the results of ANOVA- test for the differences in the participant's responses Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to Collage.

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	210.83	24.00	8.78	11.06	0.08
Within Groups	8813.04	11100.00	0.79		
Total	9023.87	11124.00			

The results in table (5) show that the level of significance for the differences in the participant's responses related to The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to Collage is (0.08) this means that there are no statistically

significance differences at ($\alpha < 0.05$). Thus, the hypothesis accepted.

Results related to the forth Hypothesis:

There are no statistically significant differences at ($\alpha \leq 0.05$) of The Role of Palestinian Universities

in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to academic level.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher used one-way ANOVA- test, table (6) shows: the

distribution of the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to academic level.

Table (6): the results of ANOVA- test for the differences in the participant's responses Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to academic level.

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	210.83	24.00	8.78	11.06	0.06
Within Groups	8813.04	11100.00	0.79		
Total	9023.87	11124.00			

The Results in table (6) show that the level of significance for the differences in responses related to principal's support to The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to academic level is (0.06) this means that there are no statistically significance differences at ($\alpha < 0.05$). Thus, the hypothesis accepted.

Conclusion

The study results showed that The Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity was High, with a mean of (3.74) over/out of (5). The result also revealed that there were no statistically significant differences in due to place of residence, collage, and academic level. However, there were statistically significant differences due to gender refers to male students.

Dissection of the results of the study

The researcher attributed The High Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity to the following: The Palestinian universities actively participate in all national issues in the Palestinian society, through workshops, seminars and festivals that they hold on the university campus and the visits that they

organize with the aim of providing students with the opportunity to participate in national activities, which leads to the development of national sense and national identity among students, as well as giving permission to Student Council to holds solidarity and national identity-enhancing events directed at students and allocating time to support these activities. All these factors led to highlighting the students' high appreciation for the university's role in developing their national identity.

The researcher attributed that there are statistically significant differences with the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to gender and for favor of male students to the following: The fact that the Palestinian society is predominantly a male society, and most of the national manifestations are largely male-led, due to the presence of some restrictions that limit the role of women in that field, and since that the culture of Palestinian society does not give women complete freedom of movement outside the borders of the university, since The majority of female students are residents of Palestinian villages that place limits on females and limit

their ability to participate in activities that promote national identity.

The researcher attributed that there are no statistically significant differences with the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to place of residence to the following: Students are aware of the importance of the university's role in promoting national identity regardless of their place of residence and the difference in the environment in which they live and their social and economic conditions. It is general for all students in the university

The researcher attributed that there are no statistically significant differences with the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to collage to the following: Students from all colleges participate in the activities organized by the university aimed at strengthening their national identity. Some colleges may participate in holding these events, each according to the nature of their integration with society, through sports, media or administrative activities, all of which aim to develop the national identity of students.

The researcher attributed that there are no statistically significant differences with the Role of Palestinian Universities in Empowering BA Students National Identity due to academic level to the following: The University encourages students to participate in activities that enhance their national identity regardless of their academic level. Rather, it encourages students of all levels to take the initiative in holding various events. It allows students the freedom to express their national identity and helps them develop it through all its elements and components.

Limitations of the study:

The current study has the following limitations:

1. This population study consisted of Palestine Technical University Kadoorie - Ramallah Branch University.

2. The study carried out in the academic year (2022-2023) at the first semester.

3. The study was limited by the concepts and definitions mentioned in it

Recommendations:

In light of the results, the researcher recommended the following:

1. Encouraging female students to actively participate in activities that enhance their national identity within the boundaries of the university, in a way that does not contradict the culture of society.
2. Holding more external events that would enhance the national identity of students, such as field visits to historical places.
3. Provide an opportunity for all students to participate in the national activities, especially female students.
4. Encouraging students to take the initiative in holding various activities that would develop their national identity.

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