

**Saida Jaser Mahmoud Affouneh
Ramallah**

Mobile Number: 0598-245925
E-mail Address – jasersaida@gmail.com

s.affouneh@najah.edu

Nationality – Palestinian

A highly motivated and analytical professional who has previously held the senior post as the Director of Planning for the Ministry of Education in Palestine and in addition at a leading University. Has recently gained a PhD in Decentralization and Emergency Education at the University of Huddersfield, with initial studies taking place at the University of Plymouth. Is able to build and maintain relationships at all levels through displaying strong interpersonal, planning, organisational and problem solving skills which has brought added value in projects undertaken.

Professional Qualifications

- Sloan Consortium and Penn state University , Leadership in Online learning, 2012
Palestinian American Research Centre
- Post Doctoral Research 2008-2009 : The Role of Distance Learning in Women Empowerment- Al Quds Open University Case - PARC

University of Huddersfield

- PhD in Emergency Education, Decentralization and the Case of Palestine,2007

AN-Najah National University, Palestine

- MA in teaching Mathematics - Distinction,1996

AN-Najah National University, Palestine

- BA Mathematics - Distinction,1993

Professional Memberships:

- Member of the Advisory Board for the Institute for Engaged Leadership in Online Learning.
- Vice president of the National Committee for Education Sector Review , 2013 -
Chairman of Palestinian centre for Academic Research, 2012
- INEE Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies
 - Palestinian Educational Forum
 - Vice – President of the Board of Director of Teacher Creativity Centre in Palestine 2011-2012
- Associate member of Business Women Forum
- Qualification committee for teacher professional development in the MOE
- Leader of national team for educational Reform in Palestine

- Member of steering committee of Amideast national initiative for improving higher education in Palestine, PFDP 2010-2012

Additional information arising from the PhD – Decentralisation, Human Right, Conflict Resolution, Citizenship, Peace Education and Planning for Education and Emergency Education.

The course content included the review of education and conflict, including peace building programmes for emergency education and in addition covered the areas of the impact of war, human rights and the violation to children.

Achievements

- Successfully carried through detailed statistical research of both a quantitative and qualitative nature, which resulted in the gaining of invaluable knowledge from both perspectives, which were critical to the analysis undertaken.
- Played a key part in attending conferences throughout the UK, and presented a Power Point presentation at the Annual Conference which was entitled “Peace Building and War Confrontation”.
- Presented a paper entitled “Can Decentralisation achieve its promises for Palestinian Education” at the BERA Conference.
- Published a joint paper entitled “Educating the Human Spirit in times of Conflict,” in the case of emergency education in Palestine, together with a further publication entitled “International Journal of Children’s Spirituality”.
- Attended a London Conference which presented the Violation of the Palestinian Human Rights.
- A further agreed publication is currently in the pipeline on the “Complexity of teaching Palestinian children to be peaceful whilst violence surrounds them”.
- Vastly improved English as a second language through attending numerous courses and 1:1 coaching.
- Increased cultural awareness of a wide range of countries, including, India, China, Pakistan and throughout Europe.
- Part time job as research assistant in the university.

Career History

An Najah National University- Director of E learning centre, and Faculty member in women studies program and education faculty, 2011 until now

Welfare Association – Educational Consultant for Zamaleh project, 2012 -2014

Amideast National Consultant for developing elearning strategies, 2013 ; 2014

The World Bank Project –Arab American University- Jenin – Consultant for quality assurance in Teaching math for grades 1-4 project-, 2012

Welfare Association- Educational Consultant, 2012 -2013 , preparing interventions for strategic plan for the education sector

Amideast - Project Director- Believe it or not- math can be excited 2011-2012(faculty grants)

Amideast- Project Director: Rethink I am here.,2009-2011 (Faculty grants)

Al Quds Open University- Ramallah,
Faculty Member- associate professor,

An Najah National University, part time job
Faculty member in master program

E learning consultant:

Main responsibility is to establish e learning centre and develop a strategic plan for e learning includes policies, goals, action plan in two areas: Faculty development (training programs) and infrastructure.

Ministry of Education

consultant and member of teacher standards and code of ethics, 2010

Al Quds Open University- Ramallah

Director of Community and Continuing Education Centre, 2010-2011

Vice chairman of the strategic committee for e learning in QOU

Main duty is to develop a strategic plan for e learning and participating in developing university policies and evaluation tools.

Head of Research Department in E-learning-ODLC- 2009

Main duties include:

- Instructional designer.
- Trainer on design e courses.
- Developing training material for e courses.
- Researcher related to developing e-learning strategies.
- Educational Planner.

One of the main outcomes was to develop **a strategic plan for E-learning in the University, In addition to put standards for developing e courses and methods for evaluation.**

Ministry of Education and Higher education, 2011, External Evaluator for remedial project for grades 1-4: evaluate a pilot remedial project implemented in schools for children with low achievement in math and Arabic and provide consultancy for developing the training material for second implementing the project.

Amideast- MSN Project Ramallah

Consultant-External Evaluator of math training material 2010

Main Duties:

- Evaluate the training material developed to train teachers in model schools in math.

Consultant for developing private school development plans in Ramallah 2009

Main duties:

- Train schools development team on strategic planning.
- Supervise the development of schools' plans.
- Conduct workshops between different schools.

RIYADA Constancy Company-2010- 2011 educational Consultant, evaluator and Researcher

The main duty includes the evaluation of educational project implemented in Jerusalem schools to improve the quality of education. And main researcher for the study on the Palestinian teachers working conditions for UNESCO

**MAS- Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute
Visitor Researcher – October, 2008- March, 2009**

The main duty was to conduct a research about Education and Human Security.

**Birzeit University Palestine
Educational Consultant in e learning – 2008- 2009**

Main duties include:

- instructional designer for training courses in e learning,
- writing and developing proposals,
- implementing and following up projects,
- developing training quality assurance system and,
- preparing and conducting research specifically in E-learning.
- Training on e learning.
- Developing training guide book.

Al Quds Open University Palestine

Lecturer- 2008 until now

Main subjects:

Math education for gradeas 1-4 teachers(blended course)

Methods of teaching math- for teachers studying math education

Statistics: general requirement.

math history

applied math

Assessment and evaluation- design and supervise teaching an online course for thousands of students .

Curriculum design

Curriculum

Many other educational courses

Note: methods of delivery: face to face or blended course through MOODLE + virtual class or online course (video streaming)

Teacher Creativity Centre Palestine

Trainer- subject: Education for Citizenship, 2008

**UNESCO Palestine Women Centre for Research and Documentation
Researcher, December 2007- 2008**

The main task was to run 10 workshops in three different areas, Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah, and to interview children as part of a research to evaluate the impact of the political situation on girls' right to education. The outcome was a booklet describing the process of the study, findings and recommendations.

**Plymouth University
Research Assistance 2005-2006**

Working on part time basis on specific tasks of the Dean's research in Faculty of Education, such as literature review and data analysis.

**Al Quds Open University Palestine
Lecturer - 1998 – 2008**

Commenced employment on a part time basis which was subsequently transferred to a full time position in 2004, where the key responsibilities of the role was to teach Mathematics and Statistics to BA students.

Achievements

- Fully recognised to be a very competent lecturer, with an innovative approach to teaching a compulsory subject of Mathematics as a way of life.
- Through the building of individual relationships with students, gave them additional motivation and inspiration to complete their studies.

**Al Quds Open University Palestine
Director of the Planning Dept 2001 – 2004**

As Director of Planning, reported directly to the Vice Chancellor of the University, in a key role which was to strategically develop an overall learning plan for the University.

Achievements

- Created for the first time, a statistical book of information for the University which was also available as a database stored on PC. Crucial analysis included for e.g. the full details of the numbers of students, teachers and the relevant financial needs as an aid in the prediction of further growth.
- As Head of a Committee, prepared a detailed plan for the University to estimate the future needs and requirements of an existing 20 campus site operation. The plan included the on-going requirements of staffing levels and equipment, and a proposal was successfully put forward to the President, with partial implementation taking place.

- Built and maintained key relationships with other departments of the University, in order to understand and meet their future needs e.g. the Agricultural Programme within the University.
- As part of a dedicated group, developed an emergency plan to deal with the difficult circumstances as a direct result of conflict, to ensure that students learning and their protection were maintained at all times, and that lectures and examinations were not compromised.

The Ministry of Education Palestine – 1994 - 2001

Commenced employment with the Ministry of Education in 1994, initially teaching Mathematics in Schools. Gained promotion to Head of the Research Division in 1996, and was then personally asked to become the Co-ordinator of the 5 Year Plan Unit in 1998. Promotion to the position of Director of Planning was then secured.

The Director of Planning for the Ministry of Education 1999 – 2001

The key responsibility of this role was to co-ordinate a dedicated team, to ensure that the 5 Year Plan was further developed and followed through, ensuring that each department who was involved, carried through their responsibilities through a programme of on-going reviews and analysis.

Achievements

- Influenced the recruitment and development of the team.
- Motivated the team through the personal development of each member.
- During this position vastly improved personal IT skills together with the use of the English Language.

The Co-ordinator of the 5-Year Plan Unit 1998 – 1999

The responsibilities of this position was to produce a 5 year plan, which involved the bringing together of numerous Consultants both worldwide and within Palestine, through the on-going development and co-ordination of committees.

Achievements

- Co-ordinated various meetings with other members of the Ministry of Education, in order to inform the Community about the plan with significant headway being achieved through the building of both internal and external relationships.
- Took a very active part in the publishing of the 5-year plan document, which clearly provided a vision for this period, covering the education needs of children between the ages of 5 to 18 years. Review the 5-year plan from a gender perspective.

- Detailed action plans were continually introduced, together with the appropriate reviews, to ensure that each stage of the plan was achieved.
- Instigated an internal audit trail and assessment of the plan, and personally undertook the arrangements of budgets, ensuring that all expenses were estimated as accurately as possible.

Grants:

PARC - Research Grant, 2009

Amideast- Faculty grant 2010- Rethink I am here project- Extended for another year

Amideast- Faculty Grant 2011- Believe it or not Math can be exciting

Key Skills and Abilities

Amideast- grant for seminars about the quality of education,2011

Amideast Grant- Gary E. Miller Scholarship for attending the 2012 class of the Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning (IELOL)

- Displays excellent planning and organisation skills, through the prioritising of tasks and assignments, delegating effectively to make the best use of others, and by thinking ahead introduces contingency initiatives.
- Clearly establishes achievable goals and objectives through the careful management of time, having the ability to work very effectively under pressure, and continues to prioritise to meet the needs of customers and organisations.
- Shows professional expertise, through the development of new skills and knowledge, and recognised to be an expert in the field.
- Thinks in a strategic manner, has a creative and imaginative vision, with the ability to see the bigger picture.
- Develops innovative and effective solutions to complex problems, and is able to get to the root cause of an issue, ensuring that once decisions are made that these are personally followed through.
- Through the co-ordination and the organisation of others, manages projects effectively through the ability to communicate in a persuasive way and is able to inspire and motivate others.
- Has the ability to communicate at all levels, and is able to write concisely, speak persuasively and makes exceptional and effective presentations.
- Through interpersonal skills, gains the trust and respect of others, is sensitive to people's needs and feelings and builds teams through personal contribution.
- Coaches and trains others through the teaching of new skills and competencies, which motivates others to achieve goals and has a flair for giving helpful and constructive feedback.
- Whilst carrying through detailed research and analysis, gathers information from all sources, and is able to interpret underlying themes from complex information.
- Builds and maintains customer and client relationships, making a real difference and impact on customer focus.
- Actively seeks and capitalises on new opportunities.
- Has an awareness of cost sensitivity issues, through the preparation and estimation of budgets.
- Fully computer literate, with a working knowledge of a range of Microsoft packages, together with SPSS, and Endnote.
- Deals with all aspects of change effectively, and remains confident to challenge change, suggesting alternative proposals if required.

Awards

Excellence of Teaching Award, Amideast, 2011

Training Courses

- Tempus project, London Institute of Education, 2013 , teacher education initiatives.
- UNESCO, Teaching and Learning in a digital World, LATINA for Palestine, 2012 Blended course, Ramallah
- Penn state university: How to lead your instructions into online learning, 2012 , Blended course,
- Excellence of Teaching Seminar- Amideast 2010-2011
-
- Participating in 9 National round tables held by Amideast monthly as organiser, participant and speakers in three of them in topics related to improving higher education system such as strategic planning, e learning, quality Assurance , ethics, research , and teaching and learning, 2011-2012.
- Visiting education and training courses inside and outside Palestine in order to gain a greater understanding of educational planning, e.g. in the United Kingdom, IIEP in UNESCO in Paris through to Jordan and many local study and training facilities.
- Strategic planning and preparing budgets course.
- SPSS training course
- Measurements and estimation course.
- MS project course.
- E-learning design and delivery courses.

Publications

Go with the horse that pulls” An Emerging model of e-learning in Palestine: The Case of An-Najah National University (Under publication)

The Reality of education system in Palestine after 1994 , An- Najah National University Journal)

Towards a better quality of education in Palestine, a book under publication, 2011-2012

Students attitudes towards e learning in Al Quds Open University- Al Quds Open University Journal, 2010.

How Sustained Conflict Makes Moral Education Impossible: Some Observations from Palestine [Journal of Moral Education](#), v36 n3 p343-356 Sep 2007 Taylor & Francis, Ltd. 325 Chestnut Street

Educating the human spirit in times of conflict: the case of emergency education in Palestine (shared article) [International Journal of Children's Spirituality](#), v 11, Issue 2 Aug 2006 , p 199 - 215

Can decentralization achieves its promises for the Palestinian children

Education under Occupation-- listening to girls' stories (UNESCO, 2008)(Book)

Additional information:

- supervision of master degree student from Kings College in London. His topic is to find out about the relationship between Drama and decreasing the psychological impact of the intifada on Palestinian children. In addition, to supervise several undergraduate projects in Al Quds Open University.
- Trainer and grant receiver for training students on research methodologies- 2010 (Rethink Iam here project) Amideast Faculty grants 2010
- Article - Reflections on Al Qatan conference- 2009 online

Conferences and Seminars

International conference for teaching and learning in the digital world, 2014 AN- najah National university, conference chairperson, presenter

Teaching math forum, 2014 khadouri university , speaker : enhancing technology into teaching and learning math

CELT symposium 2013 comparing between Facebook and MOODLE as learning management tools from learners perspectives. ANU

ICDE 2012 conference, Computerized Exams- Advantages and Disadvantages from Learners and Instructors perceptions at An Najah National University 21-23 November, 2012 virtual presentation

PFDP National conference, 2012, Teacher as a reflective learner, Ramallah

Amideast Seminar, " The ethics in Distance learning, 2012, Ramallah

Amideast Seminar, E learning as a tool for quality education, 2011, Ramallah

Amman ALAhliya Conference Media and Community April, 2-3 2012 The role of Media in Education reform.

Bethlehem university The Sumud and the Wall Conference 30 April- 1 May 2010 Salam says The wall is a snake – The impact of the wall on children's education- facts and photos

Al Bahrin University 4-6 April 2010 Planning for e learning according to Khan's model QOU case study

MSN-Amideast conference- 4-5 August 2009 teaching math for grade five through virtual class – listening to children's perspectives

An- Najah National University First Education conference, 17-18 October 2009 Decentralization as a Strategy for Resistance.

ICT day Al Quds Open University, 30 June, 2009 paper titled: Strategies of E learning in Al Quds Open University”

GCMHP International Conference (2008) Education under occupation, listening to the girls’ of Qurtoba School

BERA Conference (2007) United Kingdom, Can decentralization achieve its promises for the Palestinians.

Ibn Rushd monthly seminars at Birzeit University: presenting paper titled “Violence against Children in Palestinians’ schools”.

Currently writing a book about e - learning: present and future.

Others:

Presenting papers in more than 20 seminars at the UK universities about Education in Palestine-

Giving educational talks in Palestine about the quality of Palestine, TIMSS results, Tawjihi exams, Educational reform and education and gender issues

Interests and Hobbies

These include reading, listening to music, sport, entertaining, and heavily involved in all family activities