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Access for All-1970

Name of program

28

Year of activity

2010-2011

Name of the report's writer

Dr. Adi koll

Function of the report's writer

Founder, director and academic instructor.

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Status of program

AfA is an innovative initiative whereby Tel Aviv University (TAU) and Ben Gurion University (BGU) open their doors to disadvantaged populations and invite them to study in special introductory courses taught by BA students.

The 2011-12 academic year is the AfA's 7th year of operation in TAU and its 2st year of operation in BGU.

This year has opened with a total of 1500 participants in 15 study groups, with 60 newly recruited instructing students and in collaboration with more than 100 welfare and educational authorities from around central and southern Israel.

The AfA's participants are among the most disadvantaged populations in Israel; they live in society's margins and struggle for daily survival. The AfA seeks to provide them with knowledge and education as well as strength, security and self-confidence for regaining control over their lives and exiting the cycle of poverty and helplessness.

Each participant partakes in one introductory course from the project's 4 departments: medicine, law, business and psychology.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

- The Knesset Speaker's prize, awarded to citizens and organizations making outstanding contribution to Israeli society, was recently awarded to Dr. Adi Koll, founder and director of the Access for All project. The prize will be awarded at a ceremony to be held in the Knesset on January 10th, 2012.
- The 2010-1 school year concluded most successfully. The year had brought with it many challenges and innovations: opening the BGU branch alongside the expansion of the existing TAU branch and opening new groups; changes in personnel; and continuing education innovations. The year opened with 323 participants in BGU and 976 participants in TAU and ended with 281 and 843 participants respectively (86.91% graduation rate). In addition, an unprecedented number of participants (over 100) graduated from 3 consecutive school years and embarked on a new educational route.
- High percentage of participants have graduated and passed the final knowledge exams (average grades of 94.2). The participants proved a profound understanding of the studied materials and a strong will to share that knowledge with their surroundings.
- The substantial satisfaction of the participants this year is evident by their high attendance rates throughout the year, by their feedback questionnaires and their true commitment to their studies which was realized by their integration into the enrichment programs and the continuing education programs. The instructing students also described their participation in the AfA as a constitutive experience which changed their lives and turned their university studies into a meaningful and influential experience.
- The AfA studies urge many participants to continue studying and advancing in a variety of study routes. Operating under the AfA is a department that accompanies those participants and assists them in integrating into different courses, workshops, education completion programs and academic studies. During the current school year over 200 participants took part in the AfA's continuing education activities, including basic skills courses such as language or basic computers skills. In addition, this year 39 of AfA's graduates are studying in Ariel University Center of Samaria in a special acceptance track for BA studies in Humanities and Social Studies, offered exclusively to AfA's graduates.

Evaluation

External Evaluation - Since 2009 an extensive evaluative research has been conducted regarding the AfA by two social work MA students as part of their dissertation thesis. The research's goal was to examine the connection between participation in the AfA and its participants' changes in self-esteem, general sense of capability and sense of hope regarding studying. In addition the research wished to examine the participants' level of satisfaction and the connection between their personal characteristics (age, gender, number of children and financial situation) to the satisfaction rate. Early results indicate that participation in the AfA

improves the participants' sense of capabilities and is directly related to improving the self esteem of its studying youth.

Internal Evaluation- The high demand for studies with the AfA and the high attendance of the courses' participants obviously indicate a high satisfaction rate, but beyond that the AfA checks the participants' satisfaction level and the contribution they attribute to the AfA in their lives through feedback questionnaires conducted twice a year. These questionnaires also aim to test the participants' level of interest in the study materials and the instruction level and performance of their instructors. This year the average grade in the participants' satisfaction questionnaire was 6.5 (on a 1-7 scale).

In addition, at the end of the school year the instructing students are also requested to answer a feedback questionnaire summarizing their own work with the AfA's participants and the AfA's contribution to them and their participants. This year the average grade in the students' satisfaction questionnaire was 4.6 (on a 1-5 scale).

Others

The 2011-2 school year will center on strengthening and stabilizing the two existing AfA branches in TAU and BGU while initializing the establishment process of a third AfA branch in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI).

The operating branches will focus on the expansion of the continuing studies' infrastructure; the establishment of an alumni organization for the AfA's participants and students; formalizing and establishing working relationships with additional welfare and educational authorities; and creating a knowledge preservation mechanism for all levels of the organization.

We expect to open the 2012-2013 school year with 2200 participants and 88 instructing students operating in the 3 branches of AfA: TAU, BGU and HUJI.

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