

אוניברסיטה בעם

הידע מגיע לכולם



Access for All

Academic Year 2014-2015

KNOWLEDGE IS DUE TO EVERYONE

Program Founder - Dr. Adi Koll

Dear Friends,

This year we are celebrating the first decade of "Access for All" - a decade of extensive activity to open the gates of the universities in Israel and to disseminate their accumulated knowledge. "Knowledge is due to everyone", which began as a worn out phrase, has become reality. Today, when I observe this enterprise, I find it hard not to become emotional. With the help of a wonderful staff, fertile cooperation, and innumerable supporters and friends, this dream has not only materialized in full, but even continues to grow and develop, and especially to touch the lives of many. I learned many lessons at AFA. I learned about "significant citizenship", that thinks outside the box, is not afraid of new meeting points, among people and between a person and him/herself, and mainly - that seeks not to accept what is, and dares to change and create new reality. However, the most important lesson I am learning today, and I propose to you, as well - to never stop dreaming. I want to thank Rotem and all those helping us for the hard and wonderful work about which you can read in this report, and about whose results you are yet to hear, and I hope that everyone will continue with this blessed work. I promise to continue to be the trumpet for those ideas on which the program is based and to act for the democratization of knowledge, wherever I am, and to continue to accompany the program and you.



With thanks and blessings,

Adi Koll

Head of the Program - Adv. Rotem Yadlin

Dear Friends and Partners,

Education and schooling are the tools by which freedom is achieved. Freedom that enables social mobility, social integration and social and economic independence. In Israeli society there are many who are still unable to attain the freedom granted by higher education. This year, the tenth anniversary of the AFA program, we have travelled a significant way to opening the program in a fourth university - Haifa University - thus enabling us to reach additional remote populations, this time in the north of the country. It is truly symbolic that our attainment of a broad national deployment is occurring in the tenth year after the establishment of the program.



We are proud to have been able to expand the program's circle of influence and to make a significant change in the lives of hundreds of additional participants and dozens of instructing-students each year, both on the personal level and on the macro influence level from the social and economic aspect. AFA will continue to reinforce the added values of academe in Israel and make it - in addition to being famous for research and instruction - a foundation stone in the creation of a healthier, more egalitarian and democratic society.

The program would not have been able to reach its tenth anniversary, nor the fourth university, were it not for the many participants in the program: the many contributors to the program, headed by the Matanel Fund; our thanks go to the Universities Planning and Budgeting (UPB) Committee of the Higher Education Council, for its faith in the program that made it possible for us to expand it; to the local authorities and government ministries who send the participants to the program; the Advisory Committee and Dr. Adi Koll - founder of the program; the program's devoted staff and volunteers; and above all - the participants, who place their trust in us each week anew; and the instructing-students, who devote all their energies and time to the program.

Yours,

Rotem Yadlin

ACCESS FOR ALL - IN A NUTSHELL



**The Access for All program acts to promote an equal society
Enabling each individual to realize himself and to become a
meaningful citizen of the community, through the creation of a
meeting point between the university and weakened populations.**

(The Access for All program's Vision)

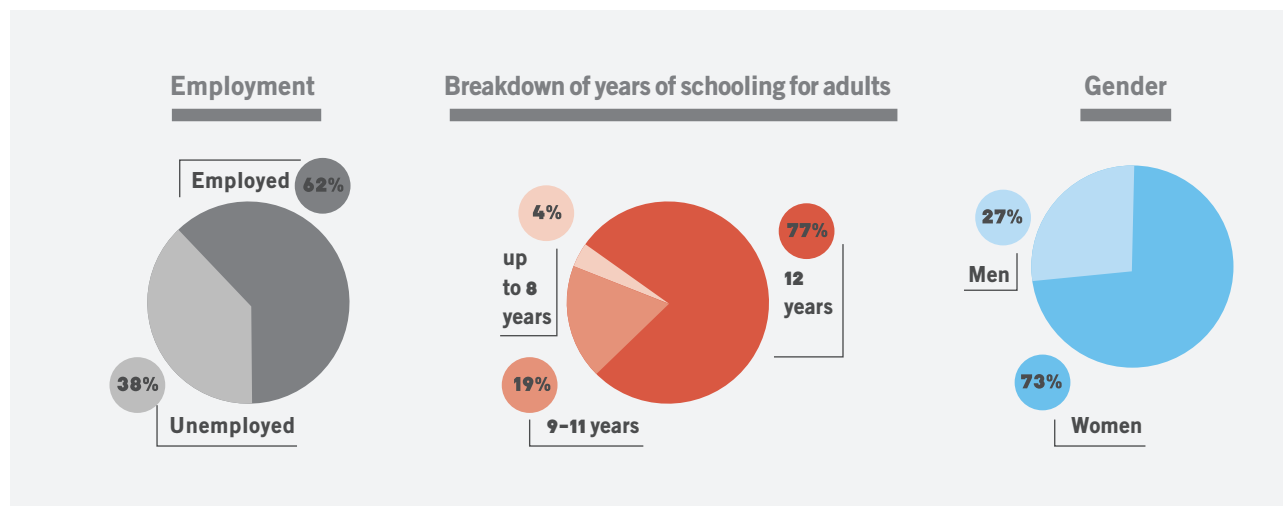


The Access for All program provides an access to the center of power and public knowledge - the University - for all people; especially those who have no other way to reach this knowledge center. As part of the program, the university opens its gates to weakened populations and enables them to acquire essential and practical education in an academic environment.

The 2014-2015 academic year is the first year of the program in a broad national deployment - **2,341 participants**, from Mizpeh Ramon in the south to Yarka in the north, are participating in the program in **4 universities** - Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University, the Hebrew University and Haifa University. The participants study in various annual courses: **law, medicine, psychology, economics and business**, given by **93 BA graduate instructing-students**.

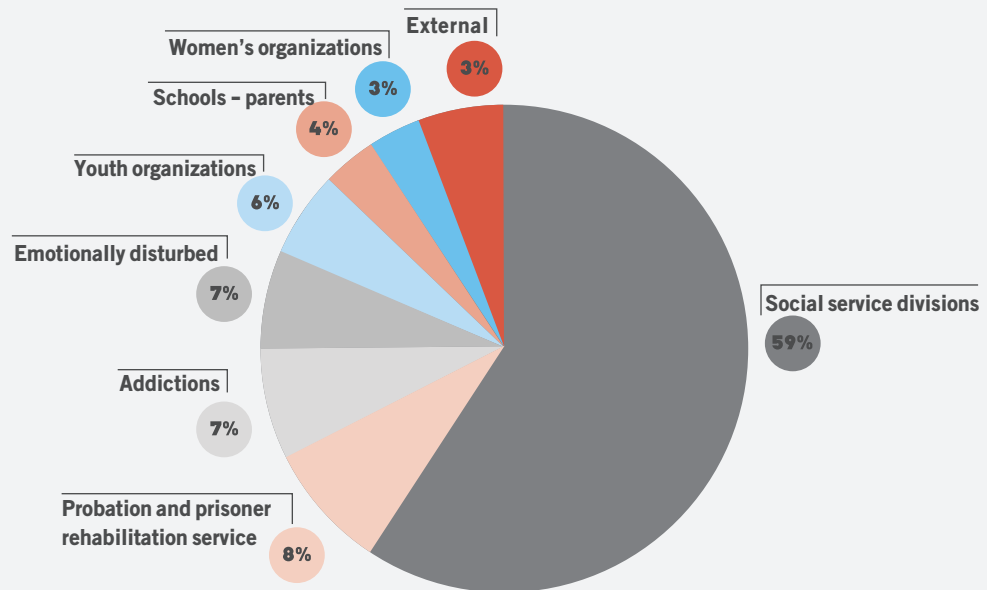
The participants in the program, both adults and youths, come from difficult socio-economic backgrounds, after dropping out of previous educational frameworks, and they are hampered by significant information gaps. The participants are monitored by the welfare and education authorities, the majority of them coming from the social services departments in the local authorities, and others come to the program from the probation service after committing various offences, after release from prison (prisoner rehabilitation), some come from therapy units, and some are emotionally disturbed who have been referred by the rehabilitation division of the Ministry of Health.

The average age of the participants in the program is **40.7**.



The purpose of the program is to bridge social gaps and to enable equal opportunity by means of narrowing the gaps in knowledge and education, by providing the participants in the program with practical basic knowledge, with the aim of enabling them to cope better with daily life, and providing them with a means of expanding their range of possible activities. More importantly, the program aims to enhance the participants' personal abilities, to develop their curiosity, to restore to them their lost joy of learning, to give them the desire and the tools to continue learning and developing, and to become significant citizens who take responsibility for their lives, and operate from an awareness and consideration for themselves, for their family and their environment. The studies in the program constitute a significant meeting point between the participants and the experience of academic learning, for students and staff members - depending on their fields of occupation and perception of the world - thus creating a dialog between sections of the population who rarely come together in Israel. This meeting enhances and enriches the participants and contributes to their education and training, and the social commitment of the instructing-students.

Participants Profile - Referring Entity



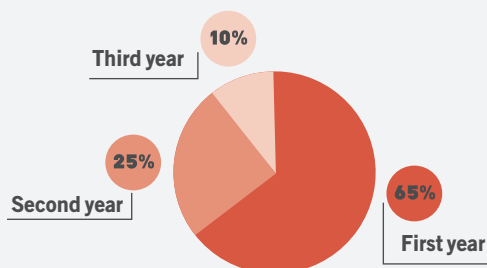
The Access for All instructing-students teach a class of 25 participants each, and in parallel study in an academic course that deals with inequalities in the Israeli society and social commitment. The instructing-students receive academic credits, based on the perception that academic education should encourage, initiate and advance the instructing-students' social involvement.

The program's activity model enables social use and leverage of the knowledge accumulated by academe, with its enormous human resources - the students and the staff, and the physical infrastructure of the institutions - in classrooms, in the evenings, when their "standard" academic activity comes to an end. In order to ensure the removal of obstacles when the participants come to the program, they are brought to the university by organized transport, and upon their arrival they receive a sandwich and a drink. The uniqueness of this model of activity is not only the success of making education accessible to all parts of the public, but also that it is based on a "lean" cost structure, that leads to a high social yield vis-à-vis the required budgetary investment.

Geographic dispersal - The program participants in the 2014-15 academic year come from Mitzpe Ramon in the south up to Yarka in the north. Thus we have completed two years of significant geographic expansion to the periphery of Israel, and we have doubled the number of local authorities who send their personnel to study in the program.

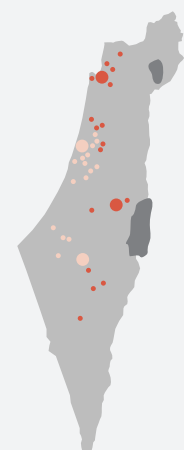
Continuity in the Access for All Program - The participants in the program have the option of continuing to study for an additional year in another study framework. The percentage of participants who graduated to the second year in the program in the 2014-2015 academic year is about 60%, and the percentage of participants who went on to the third year in the program is about 90%. From among the program's adult participants - 251 participants are in the third year, 587 participants in the second year and about 1,555 participants in the first year of the program.

Continuity in the Program



Geographic dispersal

- Participants diversification - 2013
- Participants diversification - 2015



SUMMARY OF THE 2014–2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

During the 2014–5 academic year 2,344 have started their studies with the program and 1,890 have finished the year in four universities in **four departments: law, medicine, psychology, business and economics**. Each department offered an introductory course aiming to provide the participants with useful and practical knowledge required for their lives. The courses took place during two semesters and each course was comprised of a total of 22 meetings of two academic hours. The courses' syllabi are created each year anew by the team of instructing students who examine the knowledge studied at the university and tailor it to the requirements, the characteristics and the interest areas of their participants. In addition, the participants are introduced to governmental systems and to private and governmental institutions and their operation. During the year each group embarks on an educational tour outside the university and meets with leading professionals in their relevant fields.

The Educational Model – knowledge alongside meeting point

The AFA operates according to a unique educational model, developed especially for its participants out of consideration of their interest areas and needs. The AFA's principles are based on a dialogic educational philosophy built around the relationship of “a teacher who's a student and a student who's a teacher” and on reciprocity, listening and responsibility. John Dewey, Martin Buber and Paolo Freire are a few of the thinkers inspiring the development of the AFA's educational pedagogy wishing to bring back curiosity and joy of learning to the participants and provide them with the will and the tools to keep on growing and developing.

Much attention is given in the AFA to the relationships between the instructing students and the participants. As stated, the learning process is conducted through the dialog between them under the instructing-student's guidance. In order for a dialog to develop the study environment must be supporting, demonstrating, accepting and patient, and the instructing students must display sensitivity, openness and responsibility. The students should know the participants, their lives' circumstances, their contexts, where they come from and to aspire to create relationships with them even outside the classroom's walls. The curriculum is formalized in advance by the instructing students but is going through many changes according to the participants' requests and throughout the year as the familiarity between the instructing students and the participants becomes more personal and intimate.



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One of the greatest strengths in the program from my point of view is the absence of examinations and grades from the educational concept. The participants do not feel obligated to write down everything said in class and summarize it, since there is no big exam on the horizon to which they advance in fear and trepidation, and therefore there is no study material they must manage to complete by the end of the term. This changes the whole learning concept that we got to know in school, the Army, the employment authority. I have seen very well how that void opens up, but does not remain a vacuum.

The participants and we filled the void with interested and curious learning, which progresses on a common road with no examining or grading destination. We filled the void with critical, open and accepting thought, which does not view learning as a dichotomous experience in which even after expressing a number of opinions - the answer that remains is usually the “right” one. The void was filled with multi-directional and multi-disciplinary learning, in which everyone is both pupil and teacher, and there are innumerable ways of understanding and applying the material. Most important - I sensed how the void filled with significance, common creation, fertile thinking, which emphasized the principal issues and values in every learning and educational experience

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Ya'ir, a psychology teaching- student from Ben Gurion University

The Medical Department

The participants in the medical department study in the “Introduction to Medicine” course, dealing with clarifying basic term in various medicinal areas, and during which learn about the human body, its systems and their operation and also common diseases, their treatment and the medical research conducted in order to find cures to those diseases. The participants are introduced to the Israeli health system’s infrastructure, the health insurance basics and the patient’s rights law. They also learn about preventive medicine, hygiene, proper nutrition and first aid. Throughout the year the participants visit different labs in the university’s medical school and different medical institutions.

In the 2014-15 academic year an introductory course on medicine was studied at Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion Universities, in two study groups. The course was commenced by 201 participants and completed by 173 (86%).

In Semester I the participants toured **the Medical School laboratories** and in Semester II there was a tour on the subject of **“Healthy Living in Jerusalem”** and another on **“Alternative Medicine at the Tel Hashomer Hospital”**.

In the course of the year, the participants met with guest lecturers from the field of medicine, among them **Dr. Eli Louis**, who gave a lecture on diabetes; and **Prof. Ronit Sachi-Fainaro**, head of the Cancer Research Laboratory in the Medical Faculty of Tel Aviv University. Volunteers from Kibbutz Beer, physiotherapists by education, gave a lecture to participants at Ben Gurion University on **physiotherapy**.

At the concluding ceremonies of the medical department, the following honored us with their presence: **Prof. Amos Katz**, Dean of the Health Sciences Faculty at Ben Gurion University, and **Prof. Iris Barshak**, member of the senior academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University.



Topaz, medical student, giving a lesson at Tel Aviv University; participants in resuscitation practice; Tara, student at Ben-Gurion University, demonstrating Heimlich.

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During the course we discussed the “trucks” that are our red blood cells, the roads that are the blood vessels, the fenced-off houses that are the body’s cells surrounded by a membrane, neighborhoods that are our tissues, cities that are our organs, as well as gates and locks, electricity cables, spies and “identikits”, and in the same breath we spoke of how to perform resuscitation, of pleasure centers in the brain, how the heart and lungs operate, and we even talked about medications for cancer.

Although we were the instructors, we learned no less from you: we learned that the best physician in history was the Rambam. We learned that it is possible to talk of a healthy lifestyle for a whole hour and then go out during recess and gobble a slice of cake and gulp a bottle of coca cola. We learned from your life experiences, and your know-how. We learned that sometimes, to lend someone a sympathetic ear means that I will have someone to listen to me. We learned that a smile and a hug are the best medicine. And finally - we learned to be better people because of you! Our road is still long but there is no doubt that this experience with you will contribute to our being better doctors one day....”

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Topaz, Ma’ayan, Tzahi and Shani, medical students from Tel Aviv University

The Law Department

The participants in the law department study in the “Introduction to Law” course which provides them with basic knowledge about the legal system’s infrastructure, the rights and obligations of Israeli citizens and the basic concepts of contracts law, torts, criminal law, labor law, family law and more. Throughout the year the participants conduct a tour to the Supreme Court and the Knesset and also meet with professors from the law faculty and senior lawyers. At the end of the course a staged trial is conducted in which the participants act as lawyers and demonstrate their skills to a panel of judges.

In the 2014-15 academic year, there was a course on “Introduction to the Law” at Tel Aviv University, the Hebrew University and Haifa University, in six study groups. The course was commenced by 595 participants and completed by 497 (84%).

The participants of the course toured **the Knesset, the Supreme Court** and the Law Museum, attended court hearings, and had a meeting with **Supreme Court judges Yitzhak Amit and Uri Shoham**.

As part of the preparation of **a staged trial**, the participants studied a legal file, divided into defense and prosecuting groups, worked on legal arguments and applied the manner of thinking customary in this field. Finally, they presented the trial to a panel of judges, among them **Prof. Ariel Porat, Prof. Eliezer Lederman, Adv. Haran Reichman** and other legal practitioners.

In the course of the year, the participants met with lecturers from the field of law: **Prof. Ehud Gutel** lectured on defamation law; **Dr. Dafna Hacker** lectured on family law with emphasis on gender; **Adv. Joseph Mendelson** lectured on family law and inheritance; **the Director General of Tel Aviv Municipality, Mr. Menahem Leiba**, lectured to the Tel Aviv participants on urban development; **Adv. Gil Goldreich** lectured on torts law; and **Mrs. Rivka Aharoni**, from the Debt Collection and Enforcement Authority, gave a lecture on the Execution Office.

At the concluding ceremonies we were honored by the presence of **Prof. Ron Haris**, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Tel Aviv University; **Prof. Ariel Porat**, senior staff member at Tel Aviv University and member of the program’s Advisory Committee; **Prof. Gad Barzilai**, Dean of the Faculty of Law at Haifa University; **Prof. Tomer Brodie**, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University; **Prof. Guy Harpaz**, of the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University; **Adv. Vardit Damari-Madar**, Head of the clinic for the representation of the population of the periphery at the Hebrew University; and **Mrs. Iris Pessler**, Head of the Department of Social Leadership at Haifa University.



Clockwise: Tour of the Supreme Court, the Knesset and at a staged trial by the course participants from Haifa University. Staged Trial at Haifa University and Tel Aviv University

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As a citizen of the State of Israel, I used to think that I have many obligations, and I never understood that I also have rights. I would accept submissively whatever the authorities said. However, now that I have the power, the knowledge and the understanding, I examine and study everything carefully.

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Lee, a participant in the introductory course on law at the Hebrew University

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I felt very privileged yesterday to give the lecture. It is an honor to speak to an audience that is so thirsty for knowledge. I give lectures all the time, but there are some that I do not forget, and that will be one of them

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Dr. Dafna Hacker, who lectured to the participants of the course

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Already during the first “acquaintanceship” session we understood that we are not only the instructors, but also the students. You taught us from your experience how the world of law, which is such a dry subject at University, is actually conducted. When we told you which laws should protect us as citizens, and which laws we as citizens must obey, you taught us that investment in others and giving of what we have is one of the most exciting and satisfactory ways of taking an active part in our complex society.

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The instructing-students in the introductory course on law at the Hebrew University - Tom, Keren, Shmuel and Natalie

The Psychology Department

Participants in the psychology department study in the "Introduction to Psychology" course, dealing with the question "What is psychology?" and demonstrating to the participants its major branches: social psychology, cognitive, behavioral and physiological. The course exposes the participants to both classical and modern theories and their ability to illuminate human behavior. Additionally, participants learn about the practical aspects of psychology in different situations such as decision making, group dynamics and different conflict situations, as well as other subjects like psychopathology and mental disorders, sleeping and dreaming, comprehension and senses, conducting psychological research and more.

In the 2014-15 academic year a course on "Introduction to Psychology" was given at the Universities of Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion, Haifa and the Hebrew University. 744 participants commenced the course in seven study groups and 570 completed it (77%).

The psychology groups in the program studied various therapy methods, and participated in training workshops and a variety of tours - the **Kibbutzim Seminar**, the **Therapeutic Center for Children with Special Needs in Bayit Dagan**, the **Nehar HaYarden** village and Kibbutz **Netzer Sireni**. The program's participants at the Hebrew University took a tour of the Israel Museum, focusing on a range of subjects studied in the psychology course during the year, such as the subconscious, conformism, social classes, etc.

As part of the cooperation with **Kibbutz Beeri**, the Kibbutz members engaged in psychology conducted professional workshops on relationships: parent-child relationships during puberty; coping with tension and anxiety; intimacy; parent-child relationships during the early years; motivation; and inter-personal communication.

In the course of the year, the participants met with lecturers from the field of psychology, among them: **Prof. Nachshon Miran** and **Dr. Motti Benita**, lecturers in the Department of Psychology at Ben Gurion University, who lectured on attention-deficit disorders; **Prof. Yoram Eshet**, who lectured on coping with post-trauma and rehabilitation with the help of writing; **Prof. Michael Tzur**, who lectured on inter-personal communication; **Dr. Tomer Shechner**, who lectured on psychopathology; **Mr. Tamir Leon**, from the field of applied anthropology, who lectured on the effect of the media on our lives; and **Mr. Amnon Sharon**, who was a prisoner of war during the Yom Kippur War, who lectured on coping with crises.

At the conclusion ceremonies, we were honored by the presence of **Prof. Vered Vinitzky-Sarousi**, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Hebrew University; **Prof. Leon De'ou'el**, head of the Psychology Department at the Hebrew University; **Prof. Udi Shavit**, Dean of Students and staff member of the Psychology Department at the Hebrew University; **Prof. Jenny Corman**, head of the Psychology Department at Haifa University; **Dr. Adi Koll**, founder of the program; **Mr. Wahib Habish**, Mayor of Yarka; **Social Worker Bonni Goldberg**, Director of the Community Services Administration in the Municipality of Jerusalem; **Prof. Yehiel Keller** and **Prof. Galit Yuval**, members of the academic staff of the School of Psychological Sciences at Tel Aviv University.



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AFA allowed me a small glance into the “wonderful world of science”, a meeting with friends, experiential and material resonance, windows of opportunity to become familiar with the recesses of my mind. I returned to academic studies after years of absence, and each week I look forward to the social and academic encounter...

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Shimrit, a participant in the Introduction to Psychology course at Ben Gurion University

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As a student of psychology, I feel lucky. For me it was a re-learning experience. Every lesson that was written took me deeper into the material I had learned before, but in a way that took me out of the boundaries of the material I had studied for my degree. Writing and presenting the lessons contributed to my internalizing the material and connecting with it from a different place. That happened mainly due to the participants - from their participation it became clear to me how much psychology is a part of our lives and is able to provide tools for a person in daily life, to become familiar with himself and his surroundings. Psychology was no longer disconnected from the real world as it was when studied in a large lecture hall, and it particularly got a lot of criticism from the participants. Then I, too, together with them, opened my eyes more critically to the various theories that were studied. In fact this was a joint learning experience for us as a class, and it was the first time I felt within the University walls that I was learning only for the sake of learning, and not in order to succeed. It was a very special experience.

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Hadas, an instructing-student in the Introduction to Psychology course at Ben Gurion University

The Business and Economics Department

The participants in the business department study in the “Introduction to Business” course, exposing to them the market’s mechanism and the different components of the Israeli market. The course deals with subjects such as smart consumerism, dealing with banks, managing family budget and starting a small business and managing it wisely. The course offers the participants basic knowledge in economy, marketing, advertising and business entrepreneurship and offers guidance regarding the job market, looking for a job, writing a CV, managing a job interview etc.

In the 2014-15 academic year, an introductory course on Business Administration was studied at Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University, the Hebrew University and Haifa University. 604 participants studied in six groups, of which 491 completed the course (81%).

The participants of the Business Administration course took a broad range of professional tours: the participants at the Hebrew University made a one-time tour of the tunnels of Israeli Railways on the fast line to Jerusalem, where they met the **Israel Railways Director General, Mr. Boaz Tszafrir**, who lectured on Israel Railways as a government and public corporation, the Railways’ employees and management character, and on the fast line being constructed between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The participants travelled and walked along the route on which the tunnels are being excavated, and felt the one-time experience of touring a national project in the midst of construction; the course participants at Ben Gurion University took a tour of **Mitzpe Ramon** on the theme of business and community, and met, among others, with the Mayor, **Mr. Ronny Marom**; the course participants at Tel Aviv University made a tour of the **Elite** chocolate factory. Some of the groups visited the **Bank of Israel** and had a conversation with the Bank’s economists.

In the course of the year, the participants met with lecturers from the field of Business Administration: **Prof. Yossi Za’ira** lectured to the participants on Israel’s economic policy and inequality in the country. Following his lecture, a group of participants from the Hebrew University set up a Forum for the War on Poverty; **Dr. Einat Kalish Rotem**, a member of the Haifa City Council, lectured on durable urban planning; **Mrs. Ayala Avni** and **Mrs. Amalia Polak Dagan** lectured on the subject of pensions; and **Mr. Yoav Yochpaz** lectured on “Personal Power as a Way of Life”.

As part of the cooperation with **Kibbutz Beeri**, the Kibbutz salary accountants gave a lesson on the subject of the pay slip.

At the conclusion ceremonies, we were honored by the presence of **Prof. Shmuel Elis**, head of the Management Department at Tel Aviv University; **Prof. Yossi Za’ira**, of the Economic Department at the Hebrew University; **Prof. Shai Dantziger**, senior staff member at the Faculty of Management at Tel Aviv University; **Dr. Yotam Luria**, head of the Management Department at Ben Gurion University; **Adv. Vered Saroussi**, head of the Department for Social Involvement at Ben Gurion University; **Mrs. Adi Balderman**, of the Management Department at Ben Gurion University; and **Mr. Micha Rav**, head of the Dean of Students Administration at Haifa University.



Participants from Haifa University during the visit to the Bank of Israel

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The curriculum was constructed very thoroughly and professionally, and was well organized. We were constantly inundated with curiosity. The program contributed to our knowledge, and provided us with many tools for coping with daily life and understanding what is happening around us, how financial institutions operate in Israel and the world, what are indices, the Stock Exchange, economic relationships between past and present, between countries, bank interests, risks, profits and more. Now we possess the ability to cope and understand that we did not have previously

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Yaffa, a participant of the Introduction to Economics course at Haifa University



Participants from Ben Gurion University in a summarizing lesson.



Participants of Tel Aviv University during a lesson on entrepreneurship

THE YOUTH PROGRAM

In the course of the first semester of the program, the youth program was held in its new format at Tel Aviv University and Ben-Gurion University. The youth program focuses on youth at risk, aged 15-18, who were referred to the program by the youth advancement department of the Ministry of Education, the Youth Probation Service, Schools for Alienated Youth, Warm Homes for Girls at Risk and boarding schools. The participants come from families suffering from economic distress, some of them are in school or an alternative framework, and some of them are considered alienated and drop-out youth. Pursuant to the AFA program, this year the boys and girls were exposed, first and foremost to the university environment, to the information learned in it, and to the possibility existing for them - to dream to go to university and to change the pattern of their lives. The young people coming from different family and social backgrounds become aware of each other during the program, which enables them to learn about themselves and how they cope with different inter-personal situations and different perceptions of others, and gives them the opportunity to develop broader and more varied social and inter-personal skills.

The youth program included 13 meetings during Semester I of the academic year, and the issues they learned focused on emphasizing empowerment by means of academic knowledge. 200 youths participated in the program in nine classrooms - six in Tel Aviv University in the fields of business, medicine and psychology; and three classrooms in Ben-Gurion University in the fields of psychology and business. The instructors in the program are students, for whom this is the second year of instruction in the program, who underwent specific training for teaching young people and who enjoyed separate accompaniment, appropriate for coping with the unique challenges of instructing youth. The change was made in cooperation with the youth entities with whom we work - Youth Advancement and the Probation Service.

The changes in the structure of the program were crowned with success, when the rate of participants who completed the program totaled about **80%** (higher than the target, which was about 75% participants completing the program, and higher than the number who completed in the previous year, which was 63%).

The results of the feedback questionnaires, concerning their satisfaction with the program (general satisfaction with the program, nature of the relationship with the instructor, extent of interest and the contribution from the lessons and the desire to study an additional year in the program) amounted to an average of **6.3** (on a scale of 1-7, target - 5.5). This level of satisfaction is similar to, and in part even higher than the satisfaction that was measured in the previous year in the program.

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An excellent course that simply gave me the desire to take control of my life

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A participant at Tel Aviv University

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The atmosphere is a university atmosphere and the program is excellent and provides tools for life. It is a place that not only do we learn in it but also get to know people and friends

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A participant at Ben-Gurion University



In the photograph: Dor Winter, a second year student-instructor in the program, teaching the a business course for youth at Ben-Gurion University.



Rubic Danilovich, Mayor of Beer Sheva, as guest lecturer before participants of the Program at Ben Gurion University.

COLLABORATION WITH THE WELFARE AUTHORITIES AND PARTICIPANTS' RECRUITMENT

The AFA's operation is enabled due to a close relationship and fruitful collaboration with over 35 welfare and educational authorities referring their constituents to study in the Program and accompany them and the students throughout the study period.

The recruitment process is done in collaboration with the welfare authorities. The welfare authority is in charge of publicizing the AFA to its constituents and formulating the initial participants' list prior to the beginning of the academic year. Candidates' referral to the Program is done according to clear criteria of socio-economical background, social exclusion and a major distress. The candidates go through a sorting and approval procedure which includes a short personal interview designed to test their commitment and willingness to start an educational process. Acceptance to the AFA does not require any previous education or qualifications, but it does require long-term seriousness and commitment, high motivation and the will to study and progress. The candidates who pass the initial interview are requested to pay a one-time fee, called "seriousness fee", for an amount of 200NIS and to commit to study persistence. Upon paying, the candidates are informed that after missing four lessons they will be requested to leave the Program. A participant fulfilling all of the AFA's requirements can continue studying in the Program for as long as three years.

Welfare authorities whose constituents join the AFA are requested to choose a representative to act as a liaison between the AFA and the social workers. The representative accompanies both the participants and the instructing students, assists in their initial training for working with the participants' groups as well as actively accompany the annual operation. The representative keeps in constant touch with the instructing students' representative and receives weekly reports regarding attendance, the studied content and about any special problems. He or she passes the relevant information to the treating social workers working with each participant.

The social workers act as a support system to the instructing students by assisting them throughout the year as they have no treating background neither prior acquaintance with the AFA's target population in dealing with problems and requirements brought up by the participants. The social workers also



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We closely monitor our participants in the program, who come regularly from all over the Region. They study, are curious, enriched, go out on tours, create relationships, lift up their heads, give expression to their powers and abilities, acquire useful knowledge and tools that serve them in daily life, express thanks and give it back. Some of them manage to complete a course of studies for the first time in their life - and to discover in themselves power and moral strength.

If you've never seen two participants coming to a group at the probation service, where they take part and impressively present the content of the lesson they learned on the human body, overcoming their fear of standing in front of an audience, being listened to and appreciated, you've never seen pride in your life

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Lior Gol, Regional Probation Officer, Central Region, the Ministry of Welfare and Social Services

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I was impressed, moved and happy to be part of this blessed project which, in my opinion, is no less important than individual treatment. In talks I held with my constituents, when the subject of AFA came up their faces lit up. It was possible to experience the wonderful feelings that accompanied them, their satisfaction, the power and importance which their presence at the University gave them, and of course the sense of pride and success which encompassed them. Most of them said that they made use of the knowledge acquired from their studies. Some are even interested in continuing their studies to an academic degree. Well done!

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Atzila Matmon, social worker from the Prisoner Rehabilitation Unit in the Ministry of Welfare and Social Services

participate in lessons at times. Their participation in the lessons contributes to the participants' motivation and their commitment and allows the caregivers to view their constituents in a different, more positive light, and in a different setting than in the labeling treatment environment. Previous years' experience has proven that the more the welfare authorities and the treating social workers are recruited to the Program and commit to its success, the more the participants are committed to it and therefore benefit. In cases where a close and intensive collaboration between the welfare authorities and the AFA's team was kept, the satisfaction, attendance and persistence rates were rising and the positive influence of the studies became obvious in other areas of life.

Broadening contacts with local authorities - in the past year, in cooperation with the Jerusalem Municipality and other local authorities, we are working on the development of community solutions for continuing and expanding the effect of the curriculum beyond the framework of studies at the university. This year the cooperation included a number of activities and it will be expanded next year:

- Lessons given on behalf of the local authority at the university and in the community: Over the years, in order to make things easier for the instructing-participants, we chose to cancel lessons during the examinations period. This year, as part of the expansion of cooperation with the local authorities, some lessons were given by the authority. Thus, the Jerusalem Municipality gave a variety of lessons on the following subjects: violence in the family; the psychology of success; exercising rights; intelligent consumerism and correct economic conduct (given by the CEO of Pa'amoni, Mr. Yitzhak Lamdan); personal presentation during employment interviews (given by the STRIVE organization); The Head of the Yeruham Local Authority, Mr. Michael Biton, gave a lesson to the participants of the program - a journey in the footsteps of the poet, Erez Biton; the Ofakim Municipality gave a lecture on Parenting as Modeling; the Netivot Municipality gave a lecture on Coping with Stressful Situations; the Dimona Municipality gave a lecture on Thought Creating Reality; the Tirat Hacarmel Municipality gave a lecture on Intimacy, Parenting and Family; the Haifa Municipality gave a lecture on Social Rights and How to Exercise Them, alongside another lecture on the Strength of the Group; and the Nesher Municipality gave a lecture on the Powers and Empowerment Approach.
- Municipal Services to Participants Fair - the Jerusalem Municipality, together with the program, held a fair for the participants of the program, in which it presented to the participants the services provided by the Municipality in the fields of education, employment, exercise of rights and enrichment. The fair was held in parallel with the lecture by Mr. Hili Troper - "Aim High - Tools for Changing Reality", and it was attended by over 300 participants, a figure significantly higher than expected.

Every welfare entity whose constituents are participants in the program, pays a participation fee in the program for each one.



The Head of the Yeruham Local Authority, Mr. Michael Biton, giving a lesson to the participants of the program from Yeruham



The Mayor of Dimona, **Mr. Benny Biton**, in the concluding ceremony of Introduction to Psychology in Ben Gurion University with the participants of his city



Mr. Hili Troper, Chief of Staff of the Minister of Education, lectured on Tools for Changing Reality to the participants at the Hebrew University

THE “NEXT STEP” - EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND ENRICHMENT

The “Next Step” department was established in order to assist the AFA’s participants to keep learning and developing within the AFA and after graduation, out of the understanding that the AFA is actually the first step in a long and meaningful process the participants go through which turns them from weakened and dependent population into independent learners with sense of capability and motivation for action. Thus, the “Next Step” department focuses on the group of continuing participants (2nd and 3rd year) and acts to direct their joy of learning, generated on their first year with the Program, toward additional environments and institutions that can assist them in the future. The department’s common goal is to lead a meaningful process of responsibility transfer, developing motivation and providing practical tools to enable the participants to become independent learners even after their AFA graduation. The department’s activities are mostly scheduled on the 2nd semester and include several events and activities:

“Next Step” conferences - the opening conference of the “Next Step” department was held in every university at the end of the first semester of the school year. Its purpose was to encourage the participants to think of the moment after AFA and to present the various programs offered by the department to the participants of the program. At Tel Aviv University the conference included an inspiring lecture by **Mr. Rami Levy** from HaShikma Marketing; at Ben Gurion Municipality a lecture was given by **Mrs. Rina Feinstein** on Positive Psychology; and at the Hebrew University, **Mr. Hili Troper** lectured on Tools for Changing Reality, and the Jerusalem Municipality held a fair presenting education, employment, exercising rights and enrichment services. The opening conferences were attended by over 500 participants.

Empowerment and Capability Workshop for second-year participants of the program - Tel Aviv University held two 6-part workshops on the subject of **“Empowerment and Capability”**, attended by 31 participants. The workshop dealt with coping with emotional blocks, expectations, change as a process, time management, strengths and positive thinking. At Ben Gurion University, 32 second-year participants participated in a study day at **Kibbutz Beeri**, conducted by volunteers from the Kibbutz, dealing with the ability to make a positive change in life - from planning personal aims and targets, thru time planning and ending with changing existing thought patterns and various techniques from the world of psychology and coaching which assist in personal advancement.

“Personal Vision and Motivation to Action” Workshop for the program’s third-year participants - the purpose of this workshop is to encourage motivation to action and taking active steps for second- and third-year participants, which will assist them later on. The workshop is conducted as a 6-session group coaching process, the purpose of which is that the participants will be more active in realizing the targets they set for themselves. 19 participants participated in the Tel Aviv University workshop, and 27 participants participated in Ben Gurion University.



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“Thank you for this important workshop, which contributed greatly to the awareness and recognition of our importance and to the raising of our self-esteem. The workshop gave me perspective concerning daily life and I hope very much that I shall be able to realize the strengths I acquired in the workshop

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A participant in the “Empowerment and Capability” workshop at Tel Aviv University

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I learned that only I can make the change and decide what is my next step in life - I received much advice and energy on how to implement my chosen purpose, as well as preparation for difficulties I might have and how to overcome them.

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Participants in the “Personal Vision and Motivation for Action” workshop at the Tel Aviv University