

The "Access For All" Program in the Shadow of the Corona Virus - Main Activities

"The digital gap creates inequality in society, and has an impact on an individual's employment, social and civic opportunities"

from a Digital Israel Information Website for reducing the digital gap

It is difficult to overstate the impact of the "Corona Event" both on Israeli society as a whole, and on the individuals among it, with emphasis on disadvantaged populations, including the students of the "Access for All" Program. In addition to the direct hit as a result of being on unpaid leave and dismissals, the collapse of small businesses and economic uncertainty paralyzing family life, a quiet and devastating pit has opened up between populations from both sides of the digital gap. This gap is reflected in the absence of two main components, first in the **infrastructure aspects** - the lack of technical ability to surf the Internet in an accessible and safe way, and secondly in the **aspects of use** - the lack of ability to exploit the possibilities inherent on the Internet, in consumption, learning processes, social networks, access to reliable information, data collection and more. Therefore, it is not only the students of the "Access for All" Program who will be the first to suffer an immediate financial harm from the Corona crisis, the consequences of the inability to consume services, information and knowledge online, are distancing them and their household members from the ability to recover from this crisis.

This is why we decided to build an action plan for the upcoming semester, the "Present Need" program, which consists of three stages:

- (a) Work on a digital-focused challenge, for which we have an individual mapping process for each student in relation to the various components, so that a process will be built for him/her that includes information and tasks to practice a progress axis for coping with the gap. In general, the activity will be implemented mostly this semester in an online framework, but through tailor-made, accessible and original means to reach students in the best manner.
- (b) Adjusting the content of lessons in the courses of studies for "present need"-purposes, such as learning about exhaustion of rights in the legal courses, learning about hygiene and a healthy lifestyle in the medical courses, about positive psychology and coping with stress situations in the Psychology courses and budget management and family economics in the Business Administration courses.
- (c) A supportive network that emerges as one of the most important components of resilience for the individual. The instructing students began to personally accompany the students through telephone calls, opening a WhatsApp group, communicating through other circles and more - so that no one in the program would feel alone.

What has happened so far in all of the branches:

- Personal conversations with students - Each week there is personal communication between the instructing student and the student, whether by telephone or personal message. **Total contact with 1550 students** was maintained throughout the period.
- National Instructing Students Meeting - Before Passover, there was a National Instructing Students Meeting, attended by **about 90 instructing students and program staff**. During the meeting, the instructing students heard a fascinating talk about community resilience during a crisis that Mr. Hanan Cohen, director of research and strategy at Maoz, delivered.
- During the Corona period, we continued to hold academic workshop sessions for the instructing students, a total of **4 meetings**, one each week, at each of the branches. During the sessions the instructing students shared what had emerged from the conversations with

- the students, their thoughts about the best way to continue the studies, and learned themselves about social and educational content tailored to the Corona period.
- Addressing difficulties that have arisen from the students to the relevant welfare bodies - even during this period, continuous contact with the social workers accompanying the students was maintained. The personal connection created during the year with the instructing students allows students during this period to flood difficulties they are facing. During this period, **about 40 exceptional cases** were taken care of which dealt with lack of food, poor mental state following the crisis, an unstable financial situation following unpaid leave, etc. Each case was transferred and treated by the appropriate assisting body, and a follow up continues even after treatment.
 - Volunteers from the Alumni Community help the students that are on unpaid leave - **about 10 Alumni instructing students volunteered** to help the program students who have been on unpaid leave in the exercise of their rights in front of the Employment Service and the National Insurance Institute. **A total of about 50 students received support**, which was carried out in giving help over the telephone, filling out and submitting forms and authentication to the assisting body. Also, the Alumni instructing students continued to follow up after the treatment was completed to ensure that the students did receive the money.



A national meeting attended by about 90 of the program's instructing students and staff

What has happened so far in each of the branches:

Haifa:

- During the Corona period, Haifa branch held online lessons or studies through videos sent in WhatsApp groups in the various courses of study in 14 out of 20 classes, in the following subjects: Hygiene during Corona, proper nutrition, rights exhaustion, sexual abuse, women's status, medical rights and more. **A total of 265 students** received an educational response during this period. In addition, social gatherings were held in 17 classes where students talked about dealing with the crisis, sharing, supporting and learning new things through articles and videos.
- Throughout the period, there were discussions in the WhatsApp groups, sometimes educational and sometimes social, on a weekly basis in about 18 groups. Throughout the month, at least once a week, a class discussion took place on WhatsApp. **A total of about 360 students** participated in these discussions, sharing, supporting and learning new things through articles and videos.

Jerusalem:

- During the Corona period, the Jerusalem branch held online lessons or videos sent in groups in the various courses of study in 10 classes out of 19, in the following subjects: Law and Corona, dealing with crises, brain, stress and anxiety, workers' rights, maintaining hygiene and more. **A total of about 140 students** received an educational response during this period. In addition, in about 12 classes there were social gatherings in which the students talked about dealing with the crisis, sharing, supporting and learning new things through articles and videos.
- Throughout the period, there were discussions in the WhatsApp group, sometimes educational and sometimes social, on a weekly basis in about 17 groups. Throughout the month, at least once a week, a class discussion was held on WhatsApp. **A total of about 310 students** participated in these discussions, sharing, supporting and learning new things through articles and videos.
- Zikaron Basalon [Memory in the Living Room] - On Holocaust Remembrance Day, there was a Zikaron Basalon meeting in the Psychology studies that included about **30 students**. The instructing students commented on the testimony given by David: "The wonderful David told us his fascinating story and there were moving reactions! He said it was the first time he was telling his story in this fashion through Zoom. It was a really special experience!"

From the WhatsApp of the class of instructing student Tamar from the Psychology studies at the Jerusalem branch



Beer Sheva:

- During the Corona period, at the Beer Sheva branch, online or video classes that were sent in the various WhatsApp groups were held in the various courses of study in 12 out of 18 classes. **A total of 220 students** studied in Zoom classes, through recorded material on the various courses of study, in individual conversations and in providing specific responses to relevant bodies. The lessons were focused on the content relevant to this period: social/community entrepreneurship, mindfulness videos, routine during Corona, dealing with failures, expedited legislative procedures and the establishment of a new government.
- The instructing students sent these contents in the form of videos for independent learning or lessons (Zoom), conducted discussions in the WhatsApp groups, which gave them a sense of belonging during this period. **A total of approximately 290 students** participated in these discussions, sharing, supporting and learning new things through articles and videos.
- On Holocaust Day, a number of Zikaron Basalon meetings were held by instructing students from the Psychology and Business Administration studies. **A total of 45 students** participated in all the meetings. The testimony was recorded and the groups held engaging and meaningful discussions.

Tel Aviv:

- During the Corona period, at the Tel Aviv branch online or video classes that were sent in the various WhatsApp groups were held in the various courses of study in 19 classes out of 24. **A total of 320 students** received response, both in Zoom classes, in recorded material on the various courses of study, in individual conversations and in providing specific responses to the relevant bodies. Classes focused on relevant content for this period: videos explaining about unpaid leave, nutrition, live sports classes, evidence law, writ of execution, class actions, passing new regulations in the government, domestic violence, housing, the High Court and police enforcement in this period.
- The instructing students sent these contents in the form of videos for independent learning, live lessons (Zoom), conducted discussions in the WhatsApp groups that gave them a sense of belonging during this period. **About 450 students** participated in these discussions, sharing, supporting and learning new things through articles and videos.
- On Holocaust Day, a number of Zikaron Basalon meetings were held by instructing students from the Law, Psychology and Business Administration studies. **A total of 94 students** participated in all the meetings. In some of the meetings Holocaust survivors shared their stories. In others there were recorded testimonies.



A Zikaron Basalon meeting for medical students in the Tel Aviv branch where the Holocaust survivor Yaffa told her personal story