

Reading and Education for Syrian Youth: (A Field Study of Damascus University Student)

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Abstract

Reading is playing an important role in shaping the youth culture, however degree and quality of reading paper resources such as (books, magazines, newspapers and periodicals ..etc) are different between youth. Its depends on social upbringing, family background (education, employment and profession) and individual diversities such as (age's, sex, level education and specialization takeoff this hypotheses, The research will be applicative on Damascus University students, who attended theoretical and scientific faculties during the academic year 2006-2007. The research led to the following results;

1-There is a tendency of unwillingness towards reading amongst the youth. Those who never read anything beyond university curricula represent 20% of the total number of the sample

2-There is relationship between reading and the sources of the Syrian youth culture, political topics are preferred to reading newspapers and specialized topics rank first for magazine readers for all sample, Art and social topics rank second with the exception of students of theoretical faculties for whom the second preference is sport and the third come economic topics. Reading specialized topics rank first for book readers

with no differences at all in terms of faculties and sex.

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- 3-The females are more inclined to reading books than reading newspapers and subjects outside study requirements. Females, also, are inclined to reading art magazines. As for males, political topics are read more than newspaper and sport topics. In reading books, the males give priority to topics related to their study whereas literature and general topics come next.
- 4-The hypothesis about the role of TV in the youth's unwillingness to read has been confirmed for all the sample.
- 5- Social environment surrounding of Syrian youth discourage of reading.
- 6-the percentage of reading encouragement is low amongst the youth families, for it did not exceed 38%, and their relationship between the parents' educational level and the encouragement given to students for reading, and their profession and reading promotion.