

BENHA UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

# ROLE OF UNIVERISTY IN DEVELOPING THE Consciousness OF THE FREEDOM OF OPINION EXPRESSION AMONG ITS STUDENTS

## "A FIELD STUDY ON STUDENTS OF ZAGAZIG UNIVERSITY, BENHA Campus-

AN ABSTRACT OF MASTER DEGREE THESIS IN EDUCATION (FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION)

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# **ABSTRACT**

#### - THE STUDY PROBLEM:

University plays an important role in the lives of nations. It is responsible for the spread of science and knowledge in society so as to develop and progress. It is the criterion of nation glory and the indication of its cultural character. It is also able to instill the democracy principles among the students. Freedom of expression is indispensible for the practice of democracy in any society.

The research problem was stated in the following main question:

 What is the reality of university role in developing the awareness of the freedom of opinion expression among its students?

It was subdivided into the following four sub-questions:

- 1- What are the university's new roles and functions?
- 2- What are the channels for opinion expression freedom inside the university?
- 3- What are the guarantees for opinion expression freedom inside the university?
- 4- What is the reality of students' practice of opinion expression freedom inside the university and what are the challenges and difficulties?

5- What is the suggested vision for the role of university in developing the students' awareness of opinion expression freedom?

## - STUDY LIMITATIONS:

➤ A random sample of senior students in some faculties in Benha

University. It consisted of 423 students and 77 staff members.

➤ The sample was drawn from the different academic majors in Benha University as follows: medicine, science, arts and education.

## - STUDY OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Determining the functions and roles of university in providing opportunities for students' opinion expression.
- 2. Defining the most important channels for opinion expression freedom inside the university.
- 3. Determining the most important guarantees for opinion expression freedom inside the university.
- 4. Examining the reality of students' practice of opinion expression freedom inside the university and the challenges and difficulties facing them.

5. Preparing a suggested vision for the role of university in order to develop the students' awareness of opinion expression freedom.

#### - STUDY METHODOLOGY:

The present study followed the analytical method to criticize the previous literature and the descriptive method so as to examine the reality of expression freedom in the university and its role in providing opportunities for students' opinion expression. Questionnaires were developed and submitted to the sample students and staff members.

# - STUDY PROCEDURES:

In order to answer the study questions and to achieve its Objectives, these procedures were followed:

- 1- Examining the study problem, importance, method, tools, sample, terminology and procedures.
- 2- Analyzing critically the concept of university, its functions, the channels for opinion expression and guarantees for opinion expression freedom inside the university.
- 3- Examining the reality of freedom of expression in the university and the obstacles that hinder it from carrying out its roles in providing the opportunities of expression freedom among its students, by administering the field study. Questionnaires were developed and submitted to the study sample

- 4- Discussing and analyzing the field study results in the light of literature review.
- 5- Proposing the suggested vision for activating the university role in developing the awareness of opinion expression freedom among its students.

#### - STUDY RESULTS:

The present study found out some results as follows:

- 1- 65.5% of the study sample was not in adjustment with the university life because of the differences in habits and traditions among the students and the difficulty of opinion expression.
- 2- 88.9% did not practice any activities inside the university because there was no enough time, no awareness and lack of facilities.
- 3- 59.8% of students agreed to the existence of campus security for discipline and students' safety. 39.2% did not agree to that because the campus security prohibits the practice of activities.
- 4- The student union election was not democratic.
- 5- Students were not allowed to express their opinion towards the current affairs.
- 6- Students were not allowed to interact and discuss with their professors freely inside the lecture halls.
- 7- Students were eager to assess their professors' performance.

- 8- Students were eager to participate in time table planning.
- 9- Students were eager to share in developing the general regulations for university work.
- 10- Regular meetings must be held to discuss the students' problems and find immediate and decisive solutions.
- The university had no autonomy, independence and academic freedom.

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