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The fundamentals of Civic Education in the Light of the
Efforts of Civil Society Organization and the Opinions of
Educational Experts
(Prospective Study)

A Thesis Submitted to Obtain the Degree of Philosophy
Doctorate in Education
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Introduction:

Civic education is concerned one of the main interests and function of school as its role is to prepare citizens who are active in society to keep and protect civic and democratic values. In the absence of commitment to these values, any society can't succeed or achieve progress. So, educators, policy makers and civic community members have to enhance all dimensions of civic education.

Civic education can provide students with opportunities to know about their rights and responsibilities through exploring civic and political environment where they are living that include school local community, civic society organizations. So they can learn how to discuss issues through an agenda and how the general policies are formatted, excuted and carried out. Students also can learn how to work cooperatively and how to solve problems in a democratic way or through negotiation where there are no losers and winners, as democracy means sharing authority, responsibility, information and resources.

Caring for civic education isn't the role of school only, but it is the role of civic community institutions that com contribute in deepening democratic practice and civic culture that concentrates on dialogue, accepting others, team work, communications, taking responsibility, self-initiation. All these values can only be enhanced through practice and permanent participation in political work and civil society.

Based on the importance of civic education and assuring the role of civil society institutes to enhance civic values, this study tries to reach a future perspective in the light of educational experts opinions.

Questions of the study:

The problem of the present study can, accordingly, be stated in the following questions:

- 1- What are the most important recent universal trends in the field of civic education?
- 2- What are the viewpoints of the educational experts regarding integrating civic education in public education schools in Egypt?
- 3- What is the reality of civic education in public education schools in Egypt?
- 4- What is the future conceptualization for the fundamentals of civic education in public education schools in Egypt in light of the efforts made by civil society organizations and the opinions of the educational experts.

Methodology of the study:

Descriptive method: Due to the nature requirements of the present study, the researcher used the descriptive method. This method helped in reviewing literature related to the study problem, specially the recent universal trends in the field of civic education. It also helped in the analyzing surveyed opinions of educational experts.

Futuristic method: the futuristic method is the scientific mechanism for implementing the processes of planning and decision making. It is used for providing databases for future planning and decision making. It provides information about the possible alternatives and their consequences across time. It also helps in investigating the public opinion and making consensus regarding proposed changes in any system. In the present study, the futuristic method is used for developing a future conceptualization for the fundamentals of civic education in light of the efforts of civil society organizations and the opinions of the education experts.

Tools of the study:

The present study makes use of the following tools:

Delphi technique: the main idea of this technique is that collective thinking is much more fruitful than individual one. In the present study,

opinions of educational experts were surveyed several times making use of the feedback provided by previous ones. It uses two types of questionnaires:

- 1- Open questionnaires: those that are often used in first administrations. This type contains both inductive and deductive questionnaires.
- 2- Closed questionnaires: those that are developed by the researcher in light of the feedback of the first administration.

Objectives of the study:

- 1) Investigating and documenting the most important efforts exerted by civil society organizations in presenting civic education.
- 2) Investigating and documenting the most recent widespread universal trends in presenting civic education.
- 3) Determining the aspects of civic education as adopted and presented by civil society organizations.
- 4) Analyzing the opinions of educational experts regarding the fundamentals of civic education that can be adopted in public education in Egypt.
- 5) Proposing a future conceptualization for the fundamentals of civic education in public education in Egypt in light of the efforts of civil society organizations and the opinions of the education experts.

Importance of the study:

In light of the above need for facilitating democratic change in Egypt and the prerequisite need for spreading civil culture, the present study can be viewed as a step towards achieving this broad aim, as it manipulates to make use of public education as a principal mechanism for establishing civil culture. Hence, it is of paramount importance to develop a future conceptualization of the fundamentals of civic education that are appropriate for public education in Egypt. This will be carried out through investigating the opinions of educational experts making use of Delphi technique, and through analyzing the efforts exerted by civil society organizations in presenting and spreading civic education.

Sample of the study:

- The study will be limited to investigating the opinions of a sample of educational experts regarding the fundamentals of civic education to integrated in public education schools in Egypt.
- The study will also be limited to investigating the efforts made by civil society organizations in cooperation with the ministry of education (Taha Housein foundation for civic education, upper Egypt association for education in Cairo, the Coptic evangelical association in Cairo, education promotion association, decision center for consultations, and the general secretary for catholic schools).

Procedures of the study:

The study consists of the following chapters:

- The preliminary chapter includes the study introduction, problem, objectives, importance, limitations, methodology, tools and terminology.
- Chapter 1: presents the philosophy of civil society and the factors necessary for its flourishing and the efforts made by Egyptian civil society organizations in spreading civic education.
- Chapter 2: tackles the concept of civic education, its components and the institutions responsible for presenting it. Special emphasis is put on the role of public schools in presenting civic education.
- Chapter 3: overviews the recent universal trends in integrating civic education in public schools.
- Chapter 4: shows the results of the field study.
- Chapter 5: shows the analysis of the study results.
- Chapter 6: presents the future conceptualization for the fundamentals of civic education in public education schools in Egypt in light of the opinions of educational experts and efforts made by civil society organizations.

The study results:

In view of the conceptual reviewing related literature, specially the recent universal trends in civic education, the efforts exerted by Egyptian civil society organizations in presenting civic education, and the opinions

of educational experts surveyed by Delphi technique, the study developed a future conceptualization of the fundamentals of civic education in public education schools in Egypt. This conceptualization consists of seven dimensions:

- 1-Future Perspective
- 2-Theoretical Foundations
- 3-The Basics of Future Perspective
- 4-The Descriptive of Future Perspective
- 5-Hinders of of Future Perspective and Ways of Overcoming