

International Conference

Psycho-Social Challenges of Indigenous Societies—The Bedouin Perspective

More than 400 students, faculty and community workers attended the conference entitled, “Psycho-Social Challenges of Indigenous Societies — The Bedouin Perspective”. Held on July 6th and 7th in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, this momentous event brought together international researchers of various ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. The conference’s success provided a solid foundation for the commencement of collaborative multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural research efforts.

Conference Chair and Center Director Professor Alean Al-Krenawi welcomed the many distinguished guests including University President, Professor Avishay Braverman, Dr. Johannes Gerster, representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, University Rector Professor Jimmy Weinblatt, Mr. Talal Al-Krenawi, Mayor of Rahat, respected sheiks, invited



“A Foundation with a vision...the pursuit of justice”, Dr. Johannes Gerster, representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

lecturers from Israel and abroad as well as the audience.

Professor Al-Krenawi thanked the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for its support of the conference and for its ongoing support of the Center’s activities, as well as its commitment to equality, pluralism, education, and justice. He stressed the significance of the conference bringing together Jews, Arabs, Druze, and Christians from Israel, Gaza, Ramallah, Jordan, and the United States in order to discuss these critical issues. In conclusion, he emphasized how the conference reflects the spirit of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in its openness and its focus on co-existence.

In his welcoming words, University President Professor Avishay Braverman emphasized the importance of this conference and stated that it reflects the very spirit of friendship, unity and cooperation that represents the uniqueness of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He spoke of the different road that the University has taken: in addition to pursuing academic excellence, the University is dedicated to the development of the Negev and the academic preparation of the young Bedouin population so that they may assume active roles in the region’s and the nation’s future. He also spoke of the rewarding relationship between the University and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Dr. Johannes Gerster, representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, spoke of the importance and timeliness of the



“The spirit of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev brings together all the peoples of the land”, Professor Alean Al-Krenawi, Conference Chair and Director of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development.

conference’s theme. He introduced the Konrad Adenauer Foundation’s many activities and mission and reaffirmed its commitments to equal opportunities, peace, freedom, democracy, and justice. He complimented both the Center and the University for their furtherance of such crucial goals.

An expert in the challenges facing indigenous peoples in the United States, Dr. Michael Yellow Bird began his presentation by reciting a Native American poem and song representing his solidarity with all people, particularly indigenous peoples. Offering his respects to the leaders, the elders, the speakers and the audience, he spoke of his belief

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Konrad
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המרכז לחקר
החברה הבדואית והתפתחותה
The Center for Bedouin Studies
and Development



مركز دراسات وتطور المجتمع البدوي

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
جامعة بن غوريون في النقب



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The New Director: **Dr. Riad Agbaria**

Dr. Riad Agbaria, Chair of the Clinical Pharmacology Department, Faculty of Health Sciences of Ben-Gurion University, assumed the position of Academic Director of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development in October 2004, after having served for many years on the Center's steering committee. Dr. Agbaria is putting into operation the reorganization of the Center's internal structure and related activities as proposed in the newly commissioned strategic plan to further the important principles of transparency and professionalism. All relevant information about the Center's activities and decisions will be available through the means of an information network, periodic publications, staff meetings, and meetings with students. The second principle, professionalism, is effected through the recruitment of highly-motivated skilled staff with experience in project management and service to the public.

As a result, the Center has been infused with a new spirit. Professional staff strive to run the Center in the best way possible. For example, the position of Administrative Director has been created



Dr. Riad Agbaria

to ensure the smooth daily operations of the Center and its programs. The Center's steering committee has been enlarged, and members serve on sub-committees to best take advantage of their expertise. These sub-committees include a budgetary sub-committee, which supervises all the Center's financial activities and is responsible for budgetary planning and control, recruitment of personnel, and operation of special programs; a scholarship sub-committee, which awards scholarships to Bedouin students studying at BGU according to criteria reflecting their financial, social, and academic situation, and a research

sub-committee, one of whose first tasks will be to give 10 grants to researchers submitting proposals for original research on the Bedouin.

New Academic Programs

Special programs to enable more Bedouin students (of both sexes) to be accepted for university studies are being formulated to answer the particular needs of this population. Among the problems encountered by Bedouin students are adaptation to the academic milieu, language limitations, knowledge gaps, and lack of certain learning skills. The programs will incorporate the basic courses of the Pre-Academic Program with credit-granting university courses and tutorials to impart knowledge, as well as enhancing study methods, computer skills, and other important capabilities. In a departure from the past, these programs are being specifically tailored to the requirements of each Faculty and will be designed by a committee of academics in each Faculty. In this way, the numbers of Bedouin graduating from all Faculties will be increased, and they will enter the work force, to the benefit of the Bedouin community, the Negev Region, and Israel.

The Outgoing Director: **Professor Alean Al-Krenawi**

For the past three-and-a-half years I have served as Director of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development. This has been an extremely prolific and satisfying period for me personally as well as for the Center and the region's present and future Bedouin students.

From its modest offices and through the efforts of a dedicated staff, the Center has initiated, developed and implemented a multitude of programs aimed at assisting young Bedouin women and men in obtaining a higher education and thus, ascertaining their rightful place in Israeli society. These programs offer Bedouin youth in their high school years academic enrichment courses, activities and personal guidance in order to raise their



Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi

motivation and self-esteem and to ensure their access to institutions of higher education. Other Center programs guide potential students through the application

process and continue to strengthen their academic and personal skills throughout their university careers. As described in the pages of this newsletter, our programs also encourage students to pursue a variety of disciplines, ranging from the Humanities and Social Sciences to Natural Sciences and Engineering, subjects that to date have had minimal Bedouin enrollment.

It is my firm belief that the Center's success is contingent on its intensive collaborations within the local community. Therefore, I encourage Bedouin educators, school principals, community officials, and parents to take

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Who Is Bob Arnow?

Over the past several years, I have become increasingly concerned with the advancement of the Bedouin sector in Israel. In the Bedouin community, the lack of quality secondary education has resulted in high unemployment rates and salaries that are substantially below the national average. Many gifted Bedouin are thus missing opportunities for careers in the fields of natural science, education, technology, and the health professions, to name but a few. This unfortunate situation has many negative consequences, not only for the Bedouin community itself, but for the Negev region in general, and for Israel as a whole.

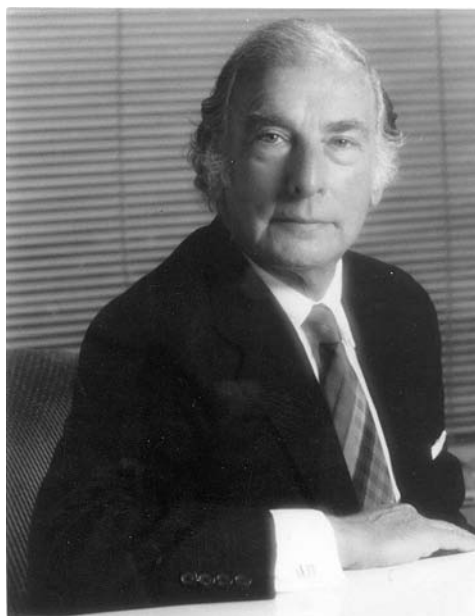
Education is thus a very important, if not the most important, way of ensuring a brighter future for the Bedouin society. If we can provide high quality training for the large body of talented Bedouin youngsters, we shall be helping to create a core cadre of young leaders, engineers in industry and hi-tech, teachers, health professionals, and scientists. Above all, they will become educators who, in turn, can prepare a further generation of professionals ready to contribute to the welfare and development of their own community and Israeli society-at-large.

Center for Bedouin Studies and Development

It was with these concerns in mind that The Center for Bedouin Studies and Development (CBSD) was established in 1997, in cooperation with Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). The Center set out to accomplish a number of vital objectives aimed at improving the quality of life in the Bedouin community. To remedy such issues as education, health care and social services, the CBSD found that educating future generations of teachers, physicians and caregivers, and focusing on the areas that carry the largest burden in the community would ultimately let the Bedouin provide for their own communities in ways that they could not in the past.

The Center's programs for high schoolers, held on the BGU campus, have made

Bedouin youth aware of the vast range of educational possibilities that can pave the way to prestige and good jobs. These programs, as well as visits to high schools by the Center's staff, have been



Bob Arnow

instrumental in encouraging the pupils to apply to university. The pre-academic programs (the summer and the year preparatory "mechinot") have attempted to fill knowledge gaps, as well as impart skills required for success in academic studies. However, it was felt that a further, bold step was required.

New Direction in Academic Programs

It was time for a new direction in the formal academic programs—programs designed to meet the requirements of each faculty. In this way, students will be better acquainted with demands of the specific faculty and can be given the tools to succeed.

For example, the students in the "First Year in Health Sciences Program" are required to take 50 percent of the standard number of credits in General Medical studies. This reduced course load allows them to acclimatize to the university milieu and fosters success in their studies.

Acceptance into specific professional health majors, including medical school, the year following is based on grades received during this special program, and not just on high school matriculation scores or the psychometric exams. The program is in its second year of operation, and the majority of students from the first session are now continuing their studies in the health professions.

Acceptance into the Faculty of Engineering Sciences requires a higher level of math, physics and computer science than is available in most Bedouin high schools, therefore a different program for this Faculty is being formulated. Students will take science courses in the pre-academic mechinot at the advanced level, as well as English, and a few introductory courses in the Faculty. A program for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is also being formulated by a steering committee which includes academics in the Faculty, as well as the Project Manager of the Center.

So that the Center can continue to develop and further its goals, a new professional staff has been recruited and the Center reorganized according to the strategic plan I commissioned. The new directorship is: Dr. Riad Agbaria, Academic Director, who has worked closely with the Center over the years as a member of the Steering Committee, and Mr. Rafik Haj (MPA), Administrative Director, responsible for day-to-day operation of the Center, including oversight of budgets. A unit responsible for research in the Bedouin Center is being established.

Let me take the opportunity here to thank Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi, the former Director, who has now become Chair of the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work. His work and personal involvement with the students provided a good foundation for the Center's success in recent years.



Projects, Workshops, Seminars

Building a Solid Foundation: The 2004 Summer Pre-Academic Program

Turning dreams into realities is the ultimate goal of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development's Summer Pre-Academic Program. Currently in its second year, the Program provides 72 Bedouin potential University students with the academic tools needed for University acceptance and success.

Students come from near and far, representing the numerous recognized and unrecognized Bedouin settlements of the Negev. The young women and men who participate in the program share an identical goal: to study at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev or at one of the other institutes of higher education of the region. Reaching this goal is not simple. Coming from harsh circumstances and overburdened educational systems, their academic skills often place them at a significant disadvantage in comparison to other students. However, their powerful personal determination, coupled with the efforts of the Center's Director Professor Alean Al-Krenawi, Program Director

Dr. Salem Al-Sana and a carefully chosen, professional and dedicated teaching staff, offer these students a chance they would otherwise not have had.

The program is rigorous and demanding. From July until October, students spend five days a week, six hours a day studying Hebrew, English and Computer Sciences, as well as fine-tuning their study and research skills. The students most difficult challenge is the University's English language requirement which obligates candidates to achieve an intermediate level of English for University acceptance.

As Program Director Dr. Salem Al-Sana states, "The greatest reward for us is seeing the students continuing their studies, and succeeding". The Center's Director adds, "The Pre-Academic Program is an example of what we can accomplish with the support of a dedicated staff and friends such as Baron Eric de Rothschild and the Council for Higher Education".



The closing ceremony

A Message from
Eric de Rothschild

The Opening Ceremony of the Pre-Academic Preparatory Program at Ben- Gurion University of the Negev on July 19, 2004

Dear Friends,

I very much wanted to be with you today but I am sure that you understand that a dedicated husband cannot leave the bedside of his much loved, ill wife and therefore, you will forgive me.

This is the second year that the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev held the Pre-Academic Preparatory Program for Bedouin students. I was happy to hear of the success of the Program's first year, and my hope is that you, the new students, will also succeed.

It is my intention to support this important program also in the future and together with the University, we are planning to expand the program so that it will take place over a full academic year!

I believe that education is the key to development. Therefore, I hope that you know that the studies are not aimed only to promote you personally, but rather, or primarily, to help the Bedouin community take its rightful place within the State of Israel.

My heart is with you today, even if it is from a distance and I hope that your studies here will be both fruitful and enjoyable and that in the end you will be accepted to institutions of higher learning, particularly Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Shalom-Salaam
Eric de Rothschild

In Memoriam: Jack Spitzer

Jack J. Spitzer was an idealist whose philanthropic activities touched the lives of many people throughout the world. A successful businessman, he devoted intellectual, emotional and financial resources to make the world a better place.

Mr. Spitzer was the Vice-Chairman of BGU's Board of Governors. Also, together with his wife, Charlotte, he provided the vision, inspiration and support behind the phenomenal growth of the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer Department of Social Work, which marked its 20th anniversary two years ago. Their most recent project has been to raise funds for a state-of-the-art building to house their beloved Department that has grown far beyond its existing quarters.

Mr. Spitzer strongly believed in the importance of educational advancement for the Negev's Bedouin citizens and was a dear friend of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development. He will be greatly missed.

Budding Scientists Program Expanded



Graduation ceremony

This year, thirty-one 12th grade students from Ar'ara Ba'Negev participated in the "Budding Scientists Program". In addition to studying science, mathematics and physics, the students also learned valuable learning skills. This year's program also included a comprehensive review course for the psychometric exams.

Sponsored by the generosity of David Dibner and other supporters, the project, whose ultimate aim is to establish a core group of Bedouin scientists, engineers and technological professionals who will play a leading role in the development of the Bedouin community, reaches students during their high school years, because the earlier the potential students are approached, the better the chances of guaranteeing their academic success on a University level. Program Director Dr. Salem Al-Sana also spoke of the importance of such a program, "Encouraging students to pursue competitive disciplines such as science and engineering is critical for the Bedouin community but we must also provide them with the tools to succeed". In addition to eight academic hours that the students study at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev each Friday morning, the Program staff work together with the local high school teaching staff in order

to expand standard science, math and physics curricula.

The fourteen young men and seventeen young women who completed the Program are about to take their psychometric exams and hopefully, the results will speak for themselves.



Samahr, Ahlam & Atidal



Closing Ceremony of the Enrichment Program in the Helping Professions

On April 23, 2004, the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development held a closing ceremony for the Enrichment Program in the Helping Professions. This program, the only one of its kind in Israel, aims at increasing the number of Bedouin students accepted for University level studies in the helping professions, such as psychology, educational counseling and social work.

Thanks to the generosity of the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation, twenty-five students from three local high schools successfully completed the two-year program. The students attended classes at the BGU campus every Friday for six academic hours each. In addition, the program included an intensive summer course during the first year, as well as specific days of day-long study both in the first and second years. Students studied psychology, sociology, scientific methodology, English, Hebrew, psychometric test preparation, and learning skills.

The Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, through the Program's staff, will continue to assist the students with registration for higher education, and with their continuing education. It will also monitor their academic performance.

At the closing ceremony, Professor Alean Al-Krenawi emphasized the Program's uniqueness and its mission to increase the number of Bedouin professionals working in the helping professions in the Negev. Mr. Ali Al-Krenawi, principal of Al-Razzi High School and Mr. Mohammed Alhamamda, principal of Segev Shalom High School emphasized the important role of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development in the increase of the number of Bedouin students attending the University. Program graduates Ayub

Azbarga and Othman Al-Krenawi represented the students in thanking the donors, the Center and the staff. Mr. Azvarga stated, "The program was of immeasurable value. It prepared us academically and also helped us to believe in our abilities".

The ceremony included distribution of Certificates of Completion as well as Certificates of Excellence to three outstanding students. The artistic program included a student presentation of English and Arabic songs.



Students visit Tel Aviv- Jaffa

Learning Skills Workshop

"*Learning how to learn is in itself a challenge*", said Siham El-Jaar, a sophomore from the Department of Education and a graduate of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development's Learning Skills Program. The project, now beginning its third year, provides Bedouin students with the skills needed for academic success; skills which too often are not taught to them prior to University acceptance.

Over 60 1st and 2nd year students benefitted from last year's program. Bedouin students are often at a disadvantage compared with their non-Bedouin counterparts because of gaps in the Bedouin educational system and difficult circumstances of their everyday lives. As Project Coordinator Mr. Bader Abu-Bader explains, "through the acquisition of these skills, the student gains self-esteem and learns to take

a more responsible and active role in forming his/her future".

The Program is comprehensive and challenging, comprising six meetings of five hours each. Professionals teach students critical study skills, time allotment, and how to prioritize. There is a special emphasis on coping with specific learning problems, such as attention deficit disorder. An additional goal of the program is to counsel students in choosing fields of study that will be both personally rewarding and appropriate for each student's particular abilities and ambitions. Because of the Program's success and the students' satisfaction, the Center has decided to expand the project. In May 2004, the Center held two workshops in regional Bedouin high schools, thus reaching an additional 54 students.

Just for Bedouin Students A Unique Pre-Academic Program

This program is part of the University's pre-academic program network. However, it is custom tailored to meet the needs of Bedouin students. The nine-month program, in its second session, is a joint venture of BGU and the BGU Center for Bedouin Studies and Development. It focuses on the particular needs of Bedouin students. The program's approach is all-inclusive yet individually tailored, relating to the needs of each and every student.

On the academic front, students study English, Hebrew, scientific writing, geography, computers, introduction to statistics, and learning skills. The Program also includes a preparatory course for the psychometric exams.

In addition to the challenging academic curriculum, the Program has a unique personal touch, providing students with one-on-one guidance to help identify and solve individual difficulties.



Food Security

Recent Study Reveals Urgent Need to Provide School Lunches

Nearly 50 percent of Bedouin parents and 17 percent of Jewish parents report that during the past year they have encountered situations in which they were unable to provide school meals for their children. These alarming findings emerge from a broad study on food security among the children of the Negev that was recently conducted by researchers from the Department of Social Work at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Professor Vered Slonim Nevo, Dr. Roni Kaufmann, and Dr. Dorit Segal-Engelchin found that the problem of food insecurity among children is pervasive in the Negev region, particularly in the Bedouin sector.

The study was conducted during March to May 2004, in the southern region and included 2,194 parents and 163 teachers from 15 elementary schools. The study's major goals were to define the scope of the problem and to examine the parents' and educators' views of a proposed law that would guarantee every child at least one nourishing meal a day during school hours.

One of the survey's most striking findings concerns the severity of the problem among the Bedouin. Bedouin children are nearly three times more likely to be

sent to school with nothing to eat than their Jewish counterparts. The large gap between the situation of Bedouin children and Jewish children can be partially explained by the high rate of families whose sole income is derived from welfare payments. Fifty-one percent of the Bedouin survey participants claimed to rely exclusively on welfare payments for their livelihood, as opposed to 26 percent of Jewish participants. These findings testify to the rampant poverty and resultant food insecurity that is found in the Bedouin sector.

Nearly all the parents that participated in the study expressed their interest in school lunches, but half of those living exclusively on welfare payments said that they would not partake in the Program if there were a payment requirement. The survey clearly demonstrates that the only way to insure all children in the Negev will be able to participate in a school meal program is by assuring that those whose income levels are below the national average would be exempt from payment and all others would participate on a sliding scale.

Food Insecurity Among School Children in the Negev

According to their parent's responses, children in the Bedouin society are at three times a higher risk of food insecurity than Jewish children.

Have you sent your children to school without food in the past 12 months because of a lack of resources?

	Happened	Never Happened
Jewish population	17%	83%
Bedouin population	48%	52%

International Conference

that “all lands are sacred and that we are in this world a short time and thus, it is important to value honor, peace, and language and to respect the beliefs of others”.

Dr. Yellow Bird continued by accentuating the similarities he perceived between the plight of his people and that of the Bedouin. He spoke of marginalization, oppression and the lack of appreciation of native culture. He recommended that we “study colonialism, the practice of colonialism by other nations, indigenous peoples’ stories, and respect for indigenous cultures”.

Dr. Yellow Bird emphasized the connection between oppression and psychopathology, indicating that repeated exposures to loss lead to depression, anxiety and numerous other pathologies.

Mr. Rateb Amro, President of Horizon in Amman, Jordan spoke of the peace process between Jordan and Israel and the rebuilding of people-to-people trust. He emphasized that Jordanian society has yet to see the promised dividends of peace and highlighted the frustration felt by Jordanians as a result of the lack of peace dividends.

Dr. Marwan Dwairy of the University of Haifa and Emek Yezrael College, presented a fascinating explanation of the culturally sensitive revision of personality theories and psychotherapeutic approaches. He also offered a model of intervention for the “collective client”.

The final speaker in the opening session

was Israel Prize Laureate, Professor Abraham Doron of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He challenged the audience by lecturing about the changing trends in Israeli welfare policies and the societal effects of such trends.



“The road less taken....academic excellence and social responsibility” University President Avishay Braverman.

The second day of the conference was comprised of parallel sessions addressing the topics of women in indigenous societies, health issues, education, psycho-social intervention with multicultural societies, building bridges between groups in conflict, societies in transition, and psycho-active substance abuse.

After a challenging two days, the participants conveyed their belief that this event was a rare opportunity to consider international, multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary collaboration about topics that may advance academic knowledge and lead to the creation of effective intervention models in indigenous communities throughout the world.



Opening Session. From left to right: Prof. Abraham Doron, Dr. Marwan Dwairy, Mr. Rateb Amro, and Dr. Michael Yellow Bird

The Conference Book of Abstracts

Opening remarks

Globalization and transformation pose significant challenges to indigenous people and traditional cultures throughout the world. All too often, these societies suffer the consequences of modernization. The disparities between the individualism-based, liberal Western culture and traditional cultures characterized by collectivism and a slow rate of transformation pose significant challenges for indigenous populations and jeopardize their time-honored way of life. The values of the dominant modern culture do not offer an appropriate alternative to lost traditional practices.

The transition that Bedouin-Arab society in the Negev is undergoing reflects the confrontation between these two world views. All aspects of Bedouin life are affected by the changing norms and expectations imposed on the Bedouin by the dominant Israeli culture. In addition, the existing socio-political situation in the Middle-East and in particular, in Israel, further exacerbates the situation of the Bedouin in Israel.

In the last five decades, the Negev Bedouin have undergone rapid changes of modernization, which often conflict with traditional culture. These changes pose new challenges and problems, unknown to Bedouin society in the past, and create new and unique needs.

This conference provides an opportunity for international researchers and practitioners from various disciplines to meet and exchange ideas. We hope that the integration of knowledge and experience from diverse disciplines will help to raise public awareness regarding the Negev Bedouin’s condition and enrich scientific and practical knowledge about this society, thereby encouraging a more positive attitude among policy makers and the public.

We believe that any action promoting the Negev Bedouin will lead to increased co-existence and dialogue among various elements of Israeli society, and moreover, to the promotion of the Negev region, the Arab sector, and to the reduction of disparities within Israeli society.

Chair, Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation 25 Years in Israel



Dr. Michael Yellow Bird

“Oh Great Spirit who watches over all the living things of the world, I’m asking for your blessing upon all of us here today; show us the right way in this life. We come to you just the way we are and ask that you put our feet, our minds, and our hearts on the right road of life. We are standing here before you, asking your guidance so that we might be thoughtful and kind to all living things, especially strangers. You direct all things in their ways. We ask that you help us to have peace among all the tribes of the world”. Dr. Michael Yellow Bird, Director of the Center for Indigenous Nations Studies at the University of Kansas.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation, named after the first Federal Chancellor of Germany, is a German political foundation, which operates in nearly 100 countries in order to promote peace, freedom, democracy, and justice. Close in its aims to the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, the Adenauer Foundation, however, operates independently in every respect.

The Foundation has been active in Israel since 1980, supporting many projects. Our challenges include:

- Peaceful co-existence among the nations and the people of this sorely afflicted region.
- The defense and strengthening of democracy and the rule of law in Israel
- The improvement of relations between Israel, Germany and Europe.

To achieve these objectives, the Foundation is cooperating with 35 Israeli, as well as Israeli–Palestinian partners. Following are examples from our program.

Meetings between Israelis and Palestinians: Joint educational projects have been and

are still taking place even in the most difficult times. Through these activities, we establish a non-violent and stable dialogue with the Arab neighbors, which we consider the best foundation for a secure future for Israel.

Support for minorities in Israel: With the Konrad Adenauer Program for Jewish-Arab Cooperation at the Tel-Aviv University we want to help reduce tensions among the different population sectors. Through our cooperation with the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and, particularly, with the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, we contribute to improving the living conditions of the Bedouin people and support the Negev as well as the whole South of the country.

We believe in a future without conflict and strive for this goal.

Dr. Johannes Gerster

Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Jerusalem

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Professor Alean Al-Krenawi

an active role in our programs. Their ideas and feedback are always welcomed and often incorporated into our projects. Working within the cultural framework of the community has led to unparalleled successes, such as the tripling of the number of female students in BGU’s undergraduate programs. This achievement was one of the most rewarding statistics of my term. In the past, I have sat countless times with parents of young women, encouraging them to allow their daughters to pursue their studies. Today, thanks in part to the Center’s efforts and programs, there exists a new awareness within the Bedouin community regarding the importance of education for girls, and therefore parents come to consult on how best to prepare their girls for university acceptance.

I also believe that furthering educational

opportunities for the Bedouin young people of the Negev requires a broader approach including activities aimed at affecting both public and social policy. Therefore, in addition to our educational programs, the Center has organized both local and international conferences on topics of interest to the academic community, practitioners and public policy makers. Our recent international conference, “Psycho-Social Challenges of Indigenous Societies—The Bedouin Perspective”, which was organized in conjunction with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, brought together an international, multidisciplinary group of researchers, practitioners, public policy makers, students, and media representatives.

In keeping with our principle that accurate data is a necessary precursor to any effective intervention program, the Center works to disseminate statistical

information about the situation of the Negev Bedouin through its research publications such as the *2004 Statistical Yearbook of the Negev Bedouin* and *Awareness and Utilization of Social, Health/Mental Health Services among Bedouin-Arab Women, Differentiated by Type of Residence and Type of Marriage*.

As I begin my term as Chair of the Spitzer Department of Social Work, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the incoming Director of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, Dr. Riad Agbaria. I wish him continued success in the quest for the betterment of the young Bedouin men and women of the Negev. I look forward to witnessing the programs that we have developed flourish along with many new and innovative projects yet to be implemented.



Bedouin Students at BGU

Bedouin Students Marching Forward

In 1998, when the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development was founded, a total of twenty-one Bedouin students graduated from BGU, seventeen men and five women. A mere six years later, the total figure has tripled, with sixty-four Bedouin graduates. Even more startling are the gender-related statistics which reveal that four times as many Bedouin women graduated from BGU in 2003 as in 1998.

The Reasons Behind This Dramatic Escalation

These three and four-fold increases in Bedouin graduates did not occur by chance, but are rather the direct result of collaborative efforts of a group of people with a vision of the development of the Negev region, the land and *all* its inhabitants. The University, guided by benefactor Robert Arnow and President Avishay Braverman, established the

Center. For the past three years, the Center, under the direction of Professor Alean Al-Krenawi and through the support of its many generous donors, continued the ambitious project of building a path for the numerous gifted young Bedouin men and women to acquire a higher education, and consequently, a better future.

The Center's strategy is multi-faceted and comprehensive, reaching students in their senior years of high school and escorting them throughout their University careers. The Center runs preparatory programs, seminars and workshops during high-school and prior to University acceptance. Other programs guide potential students through the admissions procedures. Once students are enrolled, the Center offers courses aimed at optimizing academic results and learning skills. The Center serves as the Bedouin student's home-away-from-home; in its modest offices, there is always someone willing to listen and to help.

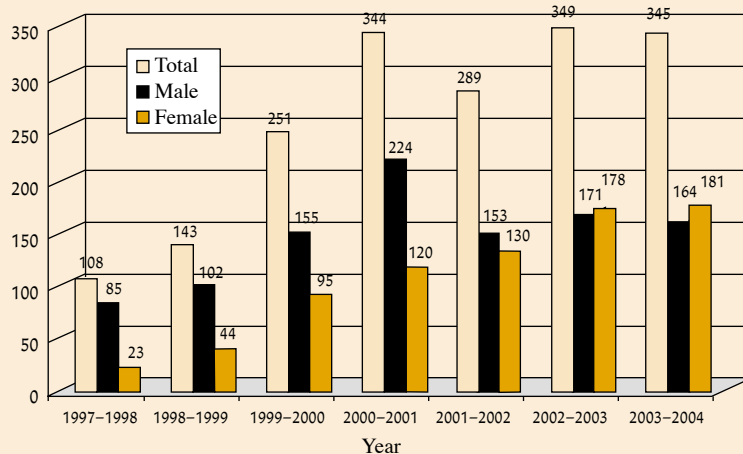


The Center and the Promotion of Women's Education

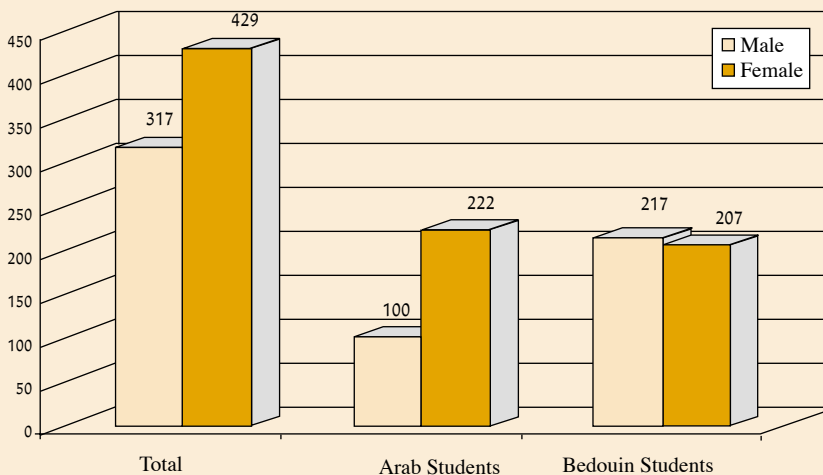
Coming from a traditional society where, until recently, the majority of women did not complete high school, Bedouin women are making great strides. In 1998 there were 44 women enrolled in degree programs at BGU, whereas in 2003, the number of women enrolled stood at 181. An even more spectacular example of the changing status of Bedouin women can be seen from the 2004 student statistics, which show that of the 424 Bedouin students at BGU, 217 are women. In contrast, of the 322 non-Bedouin Arab students at BGU, only 100 are women.

The dramatic increase in the number of female Bedouin students can be attributed almost entirely to the generous support of numerous donors and the efforts of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development. The Center's programs and outreach activities emphasize the benefits

BGU Bedouin Students Enrollment in Degree Programs, 1997-2004



Bedouin Students and Non-Bedouin Arab Students at Ben-Gurion University, 2004



of attaining a higher education for girls and the Center staff, including Professor Al-Krenawi, have been known to personally convince hesitant family members to allow their daughters to study.

Students Benefit From Retention Program Expansion

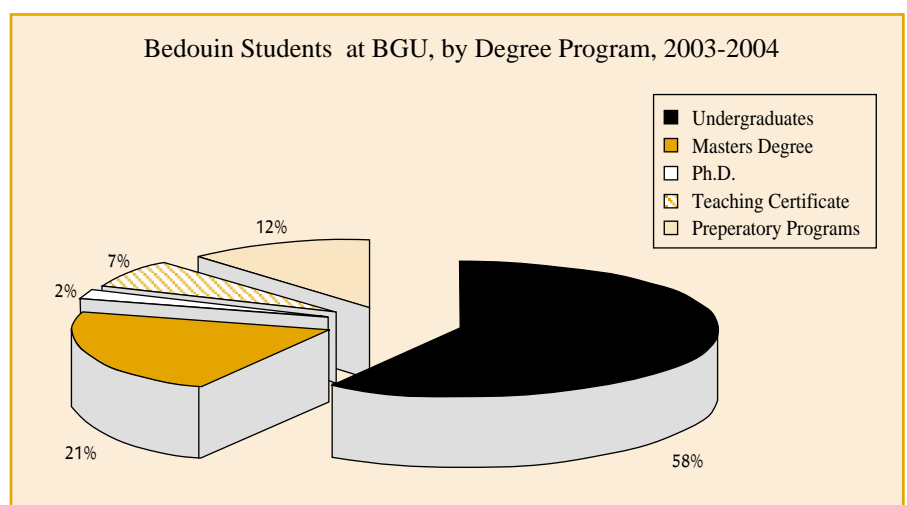
The number of enrichment courses offered by the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development for Bedouin students in various disciplines increased by remarkable 86 percent. This year's offerings included 28 courses representing a wide variety of disciplines. In addition, the Dean Tutoring Program, Group Tutoring Program and the Private Lessons Program are all going strong, boasting a dramatic increase in both interested students and tutors.

The Retention Program reflects the Center's philosophy by offering a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to maximizing the Bedouin students' chances of success. Through the program, the Center accompanies students along their academic paths by providing

appropriate enrichment programs and guidance. The project spans the entire spectrum of disciplines, providing suitable programs for students in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Basic Sciences, Computer Sciences, and Health Sciences. As Center Director Professor Alean Al-Krenawi explains, *"We have invested tremendous efforts in trying to ensure that all Bedouin students who begin their studies at BGU are awarded the tools necessary so that they can earn their diplomas"*.

The Future

Currently 58 percent of the Bedouin students enrolled at BGU are studying for their BA degree, 12 percent for a Masters level degree and only two percent for a doctoral level degree. To date, Center programs have focused on helping students acquire a Bachelors Degree. Although this continues to be the Center's priority with regard to education promotion, the Center intends to aid in the encouragement of Bedouin university graduates to continue their pursuit of higher education.



Taking a Giant Step

Iman Abu-Mdiam—A Pioneer with Respect for Tradition

"I always knew that I would study. The fact that up to now, no woman from my tribe went on to University just made this goal even more important for me. My family, and in particular my father, support me and I hope that my small step will serve as an example for the other younger girls" Iman Abu-Mdiam

Iman was born and raised in Rahat, one of eight children. Recently married, she is a small, soft-spoken young woman, dressed in traditional garb. Iman has three great loves that she successfully combines: education, her family and her culture.

The first woman in her tribe of more than 3,500 to achieve a university education, Iman's success stems from a combination of determination, intelligence and a supportive family. As an outstanding high school student, Iman knew that her love of books and knowledge would lead her to the gates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, which is less than 20 kilometers from her home, but at the time seemed lifetimes away. Today, Iman is a third-year student in the Faculty of Humanities and Social

Sciences, in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, and is determined to finish her degree with honors.

"Many of the older parents in our community are still wary of university education, especially for girls. They are afraid that exposure to this very foreign world will distance the girls from their families and cultures", stated Iman, but then continued to defiantly refute this claim with her own personal experience. "I believe that it is not only possible, but rather, advisable for women with potential to continue their education beyond high school", she said. Iman pointed out that in many ways her education confirmed her admiration of Bedouin culture and family. Iman was married in a traditional ceremony just before the opening of the fall semester. With a serene smile, she states proudly, "I am very excited about my new family life. My husband is extremely supportive of the path that I have chosen and we hope that all our children, boys and girls, will have access to and take advantage of the new opportunities that we, today, are creating".

Events

Lecture on Aging in the Bedouin Sector

On Tuesday, April 4, 2004, the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, in conjunction with the Multidisciplinary Center for Aging, Faculty of Health Sciences, BGU held a day-long lecture on aging in the Bedouin sector.

Professor Alean Al-Krenawi, Director of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, offered greetings and spoke of the importance of hosting such lectures on various topics in order to increase awareness in the Bedouin sector. Professor Amiela Globerson, Director of the Multidisciplinary Center for Aging, added her insights regarding the significance of such lectures.

Ms. Jenny Brodsky, Director of Research on Aging at the Brookdale

Institute, presented findings of a demographic survey in the Arab sector in Israel. Mr. Azmi Ajmil from "Eshel" (the organization for the planning and development of services for the elderly in Israel) related the changes of status that have taken place among the elderly Arab in Israel during the past decade. Dr. Yunis Abu Rabia, Director of the Rahat General Sick Fund Clinic, lectured about lifestyle changes in the Bedouin sector and their relation to illnesses such as diabetes.

In the afternoon session, Dr. Avner Shachar, Regional Gerontologist of the Southern Region spoke of health services in the southern region for the elderly in the Arab sector, and Gera Ramsis from Social Security lectured on economic characteristics of elderly Arabs in Israel.

First Annual Conference for Arab Volunteerism

On January 13, 2004, the First Annual Conference for Arab Volunteerism was held at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. This Conference was initiated by the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development (NISPED)/Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation (AJECC) and held in cooperation with The Center for Bedouin Studies and Development.

Of the 140 conference participants were members of the Knesset, government officials, instructors and researchers, local council heads, community program representatives, and Bedouin volunteers.

The Conference dealt with three issues: volunteering as a way of improving the community, how volunteerism in the Arab sector can bridge the gap between tradition and modernism, and the efforts of the State, NGOs and the Arab community in the design and development of a volunteer system.

Prof. Avishay Braverman, President of Ben-Gurion University, greeted the participants and organizers of the Conference, and confirmed the need to develop volunteerism, particularly among disadvantaged populations groups.

Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi, Director of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, spoke of the importance of volunteerism and praised the creation of the Bedouin Volunteer Tent. He also stressed the strong cooperation with the University and the importance of marshalling all available resources to develop volunteerism.

Knesset member Taleb El-Sana spoke of the need for the Arab community to take responsibility for itself and not give up the rights that they demand from the State.



Beyond a Bachelor's Degree: Information Day About Graduate Programs in the United States

On January 7, 2004, the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development held the First Annual Information Day on Graduate Programs in the United States. More than 60 Bedouin Masters and Ph.D. students interested in continuing their studies in the United States attended this event.

Center Director Professor Alean Al-Krenawi spoke about the importance of graduate studies and the significance of adding an international perspective to education. The Director of the United States-Israel Educational Foundation, Fulbright Programs, attended the ceremony and spoke of the Foundation's intentions to establish a study program geared to improving the English language skills of Bedouin applicants.

Information was provided on institutions in the United States, scholarship availability and visa requirements, as well as details on examinations required for enrollment at institutions for higher education in the United States.

Dr. Yehuda Paz, Director of the Negev Institute (NISPED), spoke of the link between the peace process and processes of community development.

Dr. Eliaz Zidan, from the Al-Mad Advisory Center, presented a model for traditional volunteerism that is anchored in traditional values and tribal organization.

Prof. Benny Gidron, Director of the Center for NGO Research, spoke of the role of the community and the individual in volunteerism. He also maintained that the State has an important role in the development of volunteerism.

Mr. Jaber Asakla, Manager of the Palestinian Project Shatil, presented the paradox of the State's non-involvement with the Arab population causing the development of volunteerism in that same population.

In addition, Ms. Dalia Lev-Sadeh, Manager of Community Service for the Ministry of Welfare, Mr. Amos Paz from Ashelim, Ms. Na'ama El-Sana from the Women's Organization in Laqia, Mr. Rami Stavitsky, Director of the Israel Youth Volunteer Center, and Mr. Nitai Shreiber from G'vanim also spoke at the Conference.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and emphasized the efforts of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development to reach out to the Bedouin community in recent years. The conference was an excellent opportunity for the Center to bring government officials, and members of the Arab sector together to discuss and promote volunteerism, and it was concluded that this would be the first conference to be held annually on volunteerism.



Short Film Competition for Bedouin Youth 2004

An audience of more than 600 attended the First Annual Short Film Competition for Bedouin Youth held on January 13, 2004 at BGU. The competition was sponsored by the Hura Local Council and The Center for Bedouin Studies and Development.

Professor Avishai Henik, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, offered opening remarks and spoke of the intrinsic connection between BGU and the Bedouin community. Center Director Professor Al-Krenawi thanked the Hura Community Center for establishing the project. Mr. Yusuf Al-Atawna, Director of the Department of Education, Hura Local Council, spoke of the importance of empowering Bedouin youth and promised that the Council would initiate additional projects for this purpose.

This two-year project enabled the community's youth to express themselves through the media of television. The competition included fourteen films, among them were:

- ***In the Name of the Holy Book (Best Picture)***: This film centered on the political and religious aspects of the Islamic Movement and won first prize for Best Picture.
- ***The Return to the Village (Best Producer)***: This is the story of a Bedouin youth who cannot decide whether or not to remain in his village that does not have basic amenities, or to move to the more convenient city.
- ***The Bedouin Court of Justice (Best Photography)***: This film investigates the reasons behind the Bedouin Desert Law, which was the basic authority for all tribal conflicts and examines the influence of changes.
- ***Community Police (Best Director)***: This film focuses on the controversial issue of community police.



We thank Mr. Robert Arnov for his endless enthusiasm and involvement in the Center for the seven years of its operation. His interest in every detail has propelled the Center from success to success. He has not only personally funded a great number of scholarships for female Bedouin students, as well as educational projects, but has also enlisted the support of his friends and associates. His vision and expectations of excellence led to his recent commissioning of a Strategic Plan for the Center. This plan is now the blueprint for the reorganization of the Center and its programs, and will be the Center's guide to greater accomplishments.



Research & Publications

Statistical Yearbook of the Negev Bedouin, 2004

“Schooling and education form the key to acquiring a profession and integration into the modern world...”
(From the introduction to the 2004 Statistical Yearbook of the Negev Bedouin)

In the Bedouin society of the Negev, where more than half of the population is comprised of children under the age of 18, the need for social and educational services far exceeds those actually provided.

The 2004 Statistical Yearbook of the Negev Bedouin, a joint effort of the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development, the Negev Center for Regional Development and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, set out to empirically investigate the situation of the Negev Bedouin. Comprising more than a quarter of the total population of the Negev, the Bedouin must be an integral element of the successful development of Israel’s planned fourth metropolis. The Yearbook’s findings are intended to serve

as a guide for policy-makers, researchers and community workers.

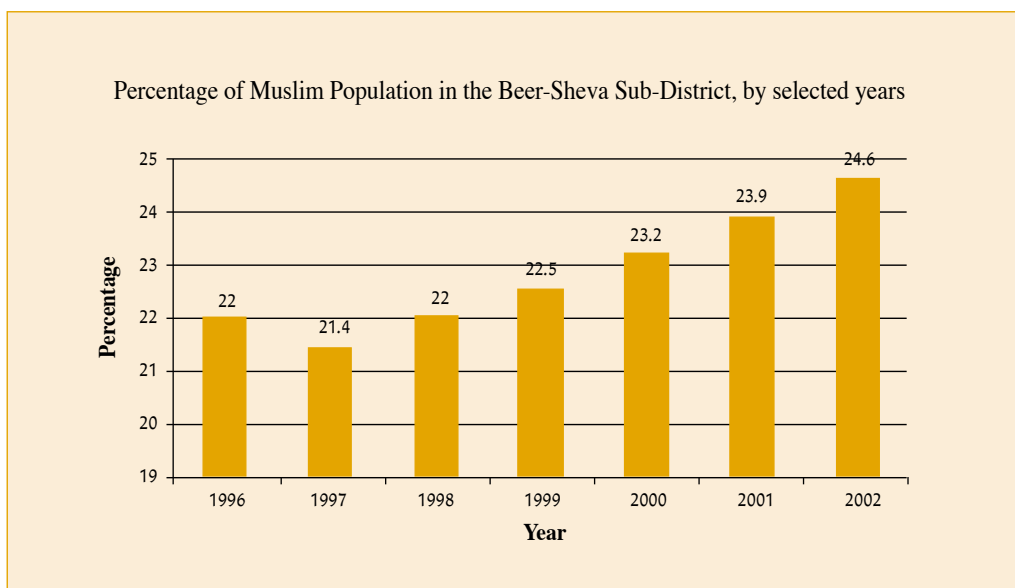
The Yearbook touched on nine major topics including population and demographics, planning and construction, employment and economics, public institutions, and government services, education, health and welfare, local administration, and elections to the sixteenth Knesset.

Some of the Yearbook’s most striking statistical findings are in the fields of:

- **Population—The unique age structure of the society:** Twenty-five percent of the Muslim population in the Beer-Sheva area is under the age of four, in contrast with 10.8 percent of the general population. Equally impressive is the fact that only 1.3 percent of the Bedouin population is classified as elderly, in contrast with 9.8 percent of the general population.
- **Employment and Economics:** The statistics relating to employment and

economics describe a sobering scenario. While the average income of a family of salaried employees in Israel stood at NIS 10,988 in 2002, the average income of a family of salaried employees in the Bedouin locality of A’rara BaNegev stood at NIS 4,180.

- **Public Institutions and Governmental Services:** There is a dearth of emergency medical services, community centers, libraries, and governmental services. Despite the high birth rate, new mothers must travel to Beer-Sheva to register their newborns.
- **Education:** The infrastructure and the achievements of the education system are described in detail and portray an emergency situation. Support services for the educational system are relatively poor and of the 277 existing kindergartens, 217 are in structures that were not intended for this purpose. After careful interpretation of statistical findings, only 28 percent of Bedouin students were eligible for Bagrut certificates.



“Today, the Bedouin of the Negev comprise about one-fourth of the population of the Beer-Sheva sub-district (the Negev), and there is no doubt that further development of this Region cannot continue without the inclusion of exclusive plans for this sector. According to national development plans, the Beer-Sheva Region is intended to become Israel’s fourth metropolis, hence we found it appropriate to publish a database that can serve as a basis for the future planning of this metropolis”, Prof. Alean Al-Krenawi and Prof. Yehuda Gradus

More details on the Center’s Website: www.bgu.ac.il/bedouin

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New Center Survey Reveals that Most Bedouin Women Do Not Use Available Mental Health Services

A recent survey conducted by the Center for Bedouin Studies and Development in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation revealed that two-thirds of Bedouin women living in unrecognized villages and one-third of those living in recognized villages are not aware of the existence of available mental health services. Even more disturbing was the finding that more than 90 percent of the Bedouin women surveyed do not use the available mental health services, regardless of whether they reside in recognized or unrecognized villages.

The Center survey entitled *Awareness and Utilization of Social, Health/Mental Health Services among Bedouin-Arab Women, Differentiated by Type of Residence and Type of Marriage* is a comprehensive examination of the status of women in the Bedouin society of the Negev, with a particular focus on the awareness and use of available services.

The Negev Bedouin live in either one of the seven recognized villages or one of the 46 unrecognized ones. There are substantial differences in lifestyle depending on type of residence village. In addition, polygamy is still a widely

practiced custom that affects the lives of many women, although statistics demonstrate that as the educational level increases, polygamy rates decrease.

The survey's findings indicate that women from polygamous marriages and from the unrecognized villages are less educated, poorer, have more children, and are less aware of and utilize the health/mental health and social services less than their counterparts from monogamous marriages and those living in one of the seven recognized villages. In addition, women from polygamous marriages are more prone to suffer from mental health problems, yet are no more likely to turn to mental health services in order to receive help.

The study also suggests channels for the improvement of the current situation, including conferences to discuss the problems of unrecognized villages and how to improve social and health services, raising awareness about the ramifications of polygamy among the Bedouin community, increasing access to education for women, and the creation of new workplaces for Bedouin men and women.

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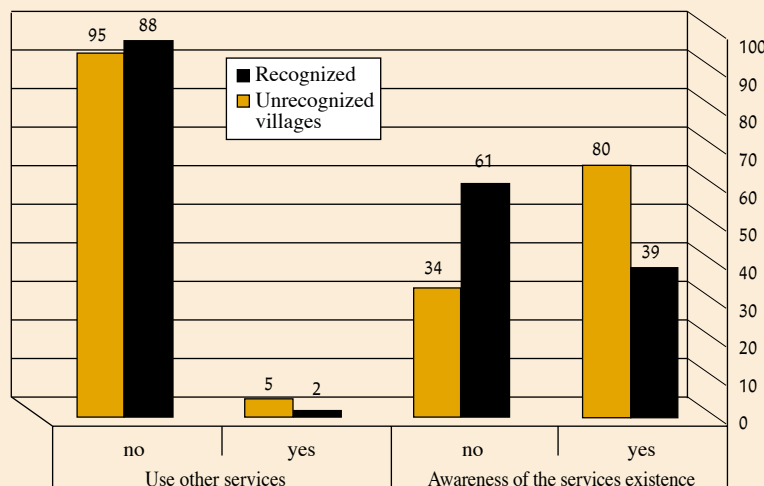
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Perception of Mental Health Services According to Type of Residence (Percentage)



Awareness and Utilization

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