



# Role of School Principals in Raising Political Awareness of Irbid Teachers' Point of View

Athir Husni Al Kouri<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Educational Administration, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan

<sup>2</sup>Al Bahrinia School, Irbid, Jordan

## Email address:

athirkouri@gmail.com

## To cite this article:

Athir Husni Al Kouri. Role of School Principals in Raising Political Awareness of Irbid Teachers' Point of View. *Science Frontiers*.

Vol. 3, No. 1, 2022, pp. 43-47. doi: 10.11648/j.sf.20220301.16

**Received:** January 18, 2022; **Accepted:** February 3, 2022; **Published:** February 16, 2022

---

**Abstract:** This research paper is about the role of school principals in raising political awareness of Irbid teachers' point of view. The education sector is one of the most important sectors that affect and are affected by the political awareness of individuals in any society. Therefore, the nature of the educational content of the subject curricula and the degree of teachers' political awareness have a direct role in shaping students' political awareness. Which will reflect positively or negatively on society in general. The school plays an important role in political upbringing by preparing students psychologically and mentally and informing them of their rights and duties, and providing them with a national identity through courses that link students to the homeland, and developing feelings of pride and pride in belonging to it. It also works to integrate local customs and traditions into the national culture, and work to adapt the individual with the prevailing values of society; thus, the individual feels belonging to an independent society with its own culture. The existence of a school administration represented by the school principal, who is seen as the head of the administration pyramid, the educational leader who has assumed the tasks and duties in the school in the performance of its mission, and is responsible for coordinating all efforts, and exercising it at the level of the educational institution in which they work, and on the ability of That institution has to adapt to the surrounding changes and events. Among the tasks of the school director is to raise the political awareness of teachers through training courses, and to practice politically targeted educational activities, which teachers and school principals work to instill in students' various cognitive, skill and emotional contents. Political awareness is one of the most important and influential types of social awareness for the individual and the group in order to organize the affairs of the local community. The state seeks, using various tools, especially schools, to nurture the feeling of patriotism and belonging to it, by creating a generation that is emotionally connected with the state.

**Keywords:** Political Awareness, School Principals, Teachers

---

## 1. Introduction

The sector of education is one of the most important sectors that affect and are affected by the political awareness of individuals in any society. Therefore, the nature of the educational content of the subject curricula and the degree of teachers' political awareness have a direct role in shaping students' political awareness. Which reflects positively or negatively on society in general. Therefore, the role of school principals in qualifying and developing teachers for teaching methods should appear, so that they become a lived reality that positively affects the social and political development of students in society. Hence the importance of preparing,

training and qualifying teachers, and this contributes to achieving the goals of education, such as social, patriotic, and cultural upbringing, developing values and positive trends, desirable behavior patterns, participating in community education and service, building the learners' personality, developing their skills, and research and thinking skills. Self-learning, and the role it plays in preparing learners for life now and in the future [2].

It is known that the school has a prominent role in society. It constitutes the sensitive educational nucleus in rehabilitating the members of the community according to the ethical and behavioral rules stemming from the educational and political thought of the community, in addition to its constructive interaction with the local

community in most circumstances and occasions in line with the divine instructions that Islamic education abounds in [5].

The term political education is a scientific tool, and its main importance lies in providing the opportunity for educators in the educational field to determine their preferred goals for the subject of citizenship within the school system. Educational organization. Because of this inconsistency, a trend was adopted by the Ministry of Education to teach political education or citizenship according to the lines and instructions approved by the Ministry of Education. Through political education or citizenship, the state can build a generation of students that adopts the direction set by the state and the ruling institution. On the one hand, it wants to consolidate patriotism and patriotism, and on the other hand, it aims to strengthen control and criticism, protect human rights, social justice and the rights of minorities. In most cases, these trends do not agree, so there is a conflict in achieving one orientation at the expense of the other [10].

Najm believes that political awareness is one of the most important and influential types of social awareness in the individual and the group in order to organize the affairs of the local community surrounding them, and this awareness will not be achieved unless there is knowledge and knowledge about ourselves and the selves of others. That knowledge of the same individual and group in the tribe, society and the state [17].

As the school principal is responsible for the conduct of the educational process in his school, many of the successful programs achieved by the school stem from his ability to lead human and material resources, enrich them with information, and stimulate the spirit of competition and research among its members. The school principal plays a leading role in his school in terms of planning and organization, coordination, direction, control, and evaluation; Therefore, he must maintain a conscious openness in dealing with information sources, and be motivating and directing to the authorities, committees and bodies that are included in the school, and, through his practice and interaction with the alternatives offered, he provides opportunities to assess what is happening in the school [4].

### ***1.1. The Importance of the Research Paper***

The importance of this research paper comes from the urgent need for school principals to raise political awareness of Irbid teachers and to apply it in practice on the ground, which motivates teachers, raises the level of their morale and improves their performance level.

### ***1.2. Objective of the Research Paper***

This research paper aims to reach the best practical results for raising political awareness by school principals, by identifying the most important practices of school principals because of their significant impact on the educational environment.

### ***1.3. The Problem***

The central problem of this research paper revolves around "the role of school principals in raising political awareness of Irbid teachers' point of view". Where it assumed that there should concentrate on the role of school principals by highlighting their role in raising teachers' political awareness. The need has become urgent to determine the degree of teachers' political awareness. The importance of teachers keeping pace with various modern and global trends in various political and economic issues, especially in light of the political transformations the world is witnessing in general. The relationship with the nature of the educational content of the materials and their relationship to the students' community life, and this is an indicator that may affect the nature of the educational process and its outputs. Therefore, the researcher sought to conduct this study because of its importance in order to nurture the feeling of patriotism and belonging to it, by creating a generation that is emotionally connected with the state.

This research paper will seek to clarify the role of school principals in raising political awareness of Irbid teachers' point of view, and the questions that arise, what is the role of school principals in raising political awareness of Irbid teachers? What is the concept of political awareness? What are the dimensions of political awareness? What are the sources of political awareness? What are the role of school principals in raising political awareness? This is what will clarify in this research paper.

## ***2. Previous Studies***

In the study of Myers, which aimed to know the level of political awareness and political knowledge of teachers on teaching the concepts of citizenship among students in Brazil. The study sample consisted of nine teachers, the method of awareness-raising approach was used through semi-structured interviews, and the results of the study indicated that the level of political knowledge and political awareness was high among teachers, and it has a positive relationship to the effectiveness of teaching concepts related to citizenship among students at all academic levels [16].

The study of Al-Salmi and Al-Rabani aimed to reveal the level of political awareness of student teachers specializing in social studies at the College of Education at Sultan Qaboos University. The researchers followed the descriptive approach, where the phenomenon was monitored, data collected and analyzed. The sample was selected from the male and female students of the last semester of the year (2008-2009), who numbered (71) male and female students at the bachelor's level and (30) male and female students at the master's level. Questionnaires were distributed and imported for statistical treatment of studies of the variable of gender, specialization, and educational level compared to the level of Political awareness. The results indicated that the level of political awareness among students of social studies at the College of Education at Sultan Qaboos University is

high, which indicates their familiarity with information related to issues and events [8].

Al-Zayadat and Al-Qatawi conducted a study aimed at investigating the level of political knowledge of social teachers in Jordan and its relationship to the variables of experience, specialization, and gender. It is divided into four areas: political systems, political participation, political theory, and international relations. The results showed that there were statistically significant differences in the level of political knowledge of teachers of social subjects on the total test and sub-tests in favor of the educationally acceptable level. The presence of statistically significant differences in the level of knowledge there are statistically significant differences due to the variable of specialization and in favor of history teachers, and the absence of statistically significant differences due to the variable of teaching experience [9].

A study aimed at evaluating the political awareness of students at the secondary level through the social courses they study. The researcher used a test that measures the degree of political awareness among students through social topics developed by researchers. Students out of (630) students, and the results of the study showed that the concepts of political awareness among the students were low, and there were statistically significant differences for the variable of academic achievement in social subjects in favor of male students [1].

Mahmoud's study aimed to reveal the revolution and form the political awareness of children in the city of Sohag in Egypt. The researcher followed the social survey method in a sample method, where the phenomenon was monitored, data was collected and analyzed. The sample was chosen from the sixth grade students, who numbered (655). The results indicated that sixth grade students have political awareness and a high level of political knowledge. This indicates that sixth grade students have a good level of political knowledge and are aware of political events [16].

### 3. The Concept of Political Awareness

Tarabiyeh indicates that political awareness is "a type of knowledge or information that an individual possesses that takes a political nature, and is closely related to issues, institutions and political leaders at the local, national and international levels [21].

Al Nabhani defined Political awareness as "Internal political behavior formed by the individual. As a result of the existence of political ideas and knowledge, that pushes the individual to a deep understanding and accurate awareness of the political phenomenon, and expresses the individual's degree of awareness of the political reality of his local and international community, and it appears in the form of external behavior represented in knowledge of political knowledge and information, and in political participation in its various forms in the society in which he lives [7].

Political awareness is a state of intellectual awakening in which a person realizes himself and his ability to understand

and analyze, and it is the opposite of wakefulness or hibernation and unconsciousness [3].

## 4. Dimensions of Political Awareness

The study of political awareness requires starting from a definition of its three dimensions, so that clear indicators of the level of awareness of teachers can be obtained. The following is an explanation of them:

### 4.1. First: The Cognitive Dimension

The cognitive dimension of political awareness is a vital dimension that leads to the existence of a relationship between the individual and the existing system. It depends on the transfer of knowledge and political information that constitutes the political awareness of individuals and the vision of members of society of the existing political system and political processes and their attitudes towards them, and the extent of their participation in activities, making and directing political decisions in society. It is acquired through various social institutions, where education is the most important source of political awareness [15].

So we can say that the cognitive dimension represented by information and knowledge develops the cognitive skills of the individual, which are necessary skills in forming political awareness to understand, deal with, criticize, judge and evaluate political events and problems.

### 4.2. Second: The Emotional Dimension

This dimension relates to the values and beliefs that the individual acquires within the society with its various institutions, such as the values associated with political participation, freedom, justice and equality, which lead to the improvement of the political system. This was confirmed by Ramadan that the emotional dimension is concerned with values and beliefs, such as success and respect for the law, revolution or defending the homeland. Other values such as self-reliance, work, and competition, all of which constitute the political values associated with power and political relations [18].

In light of the foregoing, it is clear that the emotional dimension is related to the principles, beliefs and values that are considered to guide political behavior and its controls, and therefore they are extremely important in the life of societies.

### 4.3. Third: The Skill (Behavioral) Dimension

The skill dimension, which relates to the process of political participation, so how the individual plays a role in the political life of his society. He has the opportunity to contribute to setting the general goals of that society, and to determine the best means to achieve them, and this is done through the individual assuming a political position, or winning a party membership or nominating himself in political elections, or being satisfied with merely participating in political issues [6].

## 5. The Sources of Political Awareness

Faqih mentioned that the sources of awareness are according to the type of awareness and the personality of the individual, as follows:

- 1) Self-resources: It means the extent of one's self-knowledge, strengths and weaknesses.
- 2) Religious sources: they mean the principles, values, and beliefs that an individual believes in.
- 3) Social sources: they mean the opinions of others and social relations.
- 4) Family sources: means family and education.
- 5) Life sources: they mean the events that pass on the individual, and affect his personality and behavior.
- 6) Media sources: means what is provided by the audio, visual and print media.
- 7) Cultural sources: they mean the cultural heritage that stems from the intellectual and cultural beliefs of the community [11].

## 6. The Role of School Principals in Raising Political Awareness

The school and its administration contribute to the political upbringing of students by providing them with basic political concepts. The school introduces students to the performance of the political system in the country. The civic education curriculum also stresses the importance of obeying the laws, the authority, and the school constitution, in order to raise a citizen who serves the interests of their state and obeys the established laws [19]. The school also plays an important role in maintaining cultural homogeneity among members of society by focusing on literature, arts and languages [13].

The school attaches great importance to the consolidation of political concepts and values, starting from the childhood stage until the primary stage, and to the rest of the stages, and therefore the school has a pivotal role in influencing the life of the student [20].

The school also plays a role in refining the national identity through direct influence using the various tools in the school, by teaching them specific contents; this ensured the consolidation of the written messages and symbols contained in the books, such as pictures and maps [12].

The school also strengthens the sense of patriotism through the daily practices that students perform in schools, represented by the national anthem and raising the flag. The celebrations and memorial ceremonies that take place during school days are a tool for spreading political awareness and morale among students, and the love of their homeland and its various institutions. Controversy, in other words, rituals and celebrations hide an emotional dimension, and another mental dimension that links national feelings and political beliefs, and what gives these rituals great influence [14].

## 7. Recommendations

Through this presented research paper, a number of

important recommendations can be reached to raise political awareness of Irbid teachers that will affect to their achievements and quality performance:

1. Continuing to adhere to the professional standards of school principals in general, by studying the reasons and factors that enhance the role of school principals in leadership and exercising broader powers in the field of giving greater autonomy to teachers in order to diversify teaching methods and methods to achieve societal goals that help build generations that have a degree of Political awareness, and has a philosophical viewpoint and is able to crystallize its ideas independently in order to preserve its national and cultural distinction while engaging in contributing to the realization and promotion of citizenship rights and the preservation of gains.
2. Holding periodic training sessions for school principals in general and teachers in particular to clarify the important ways and methods that must be followed to raise the level of political awareness among students.
3. Instilling political concepts among students through political education to increase their degree of political awareness, in order to motivate them to exercise their political rights and active community participation.

---

## References

- [1] Abonu, D. NI Ogunlade, F. O. and Yunusa, B. M. (2013). Assessment of Political Awareness Among Students of Social Studies in Nigerian Secondary School for Citizenship, *International Journal of Education and Research*, 1 (12), 1-12.
- [2] Abu Sneineh, O. & Ghanem, B. (2011). Citizenship Rights and Duties as Seen by Social Teachers in UNRWA Schools in Jordan, *Al-Aqsa University Journal (Human Sciences Series)*, 5 (2), 1-33.
- [3] Ahmed, N. & Abu Al-Qasim, L. (2014). The Concept and Importance of Political Awareness Towards the State and Society, *Takreeb Journal of Political Science*, 3 (9), 152-167.
- [4] Al-Amrat, M. (2010). The Degree of Effectiveness of School Principals in the Petra Education Directorate from the Point of View of its Teachers, *The Jordanian Journal of Educational Sciences*, 6 (4), 340-359.
- [5] Al-Hiyari, H. (2001). *Landmarks of Educational Thought for the Islamic Society*, Irbid - Jordan: Dar Al-Amal for Publishing and Distribution.
- [6] Al-Massen, H. (2005). *Political Education for University Students in Some Gulf Council Countries*, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Cairo University, Egypt.
- [7] Al-Nabhani, S. (2008). *The Effect of a Program Based on Political Concepts in Developing Political Awareness and Critical Thinking Among Students of Social Studies at the Colleges of Applied Sciences in the Sultanate of Oman*, (unpublished Ph.D. thesis), Yarmouk University, Jordan.
- [8] Al-Salmi, H. & Al-Rabani, A. (2009). Political Awareness Among Students of Social Studies at the College of Education at Sultan Qaboos University, *The Arab Journal of Education*, 29 (3), 141-186.

- [9] Al-Zayadat, M. & Al-Qatawi, M. (2010). The Level of Political Knowledge of Social Studies Teachers in Jordan and its Relationship to Some Variables, *Journal of the Islamic University*, (Human Sciences Series), 18 (2), 399-428.
- [10] Cohen, A. (2018). Political Education as Educational Fiction: Theory, Politics, and Practice, *Seminar Hakibbutzim College*, 13 (1): 111-134. (Reference in Hebrew).
- [11] Faqihi, A. (2017). Education for Self-Awareness, *Alukah Magazine*, Retrieved on March 16, 2020 from <http://www.alukah.net/social/0/119049>.
- [12] Geisler, M. E. (Ed.). (2005). *National Symbols, Fractured Identities: Contesting the National Narrative*, New England: Middlebury College.
- [13] Golic, A. (2011). *Schooling the Bosnian Way: the Maintenance of Social and Cultural Belonging Through the Field of Bosnian Education System*.
- [14] Kertzer, D. I. (1991). *The Role of Ritual in State-Formation, Religious Regimes and State Formation: Perspectives from European Ethnology*, (pp. 85-103). Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- [15] Mahmoud, A. (2001). *Islamic Political Education*, Islamic Distribution and Publishing House, Port Said, Egypt.
- [16] Mahmoud, E. (2017). The Revolution and the Formation of Children's Political Awareness: A Field Study on A Sample of Sixth-Grade Students in the City of Sohag, *Journal of the Faculty of Arts*, (42), 384-351.
- [17] Myers, J. (2009). Learning in Politics: Teachers' Political Experiences as a Pedagogical Resource, *International Journal of Educational Research*, 48 (1), 30-39.
- [18] Najm, T. (2004). *Sociology of Knowledge: A study in the Category of Consciousness and Ideology*, Alexandria: University Knowledge House.
- [19] Ramadan, N. (1992). *Social Upbringing and Political Values for the Egyptian Child*, Cairo: Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya.
- [20] Schleicher, K. (2008). *Education and Nationalism*. In G. H. Herb & D. H. Kaplan (Eds.), *Nations and Nationalism: A Global Historical Overview*, Santa Barbara, CA: ABC CLIO.
- [21] Silva Dias, T., & Menezes, I. (2014). Children and Adolescents as Political Actors: Collective Visions of Politics and Citizenship, *Journal of Moral Education*, 1-19.
- [22] Tarabiyeh, M. E. (2003). *Political Concepts Included in Secondary School Curricula in Jordan and the Extent to Which First-Year University Students are Aware of These Concepts and the Degree to Which They Represent Them*, (unpublished doctoral thesis), Amman Arab University for Graduate Studies, Amman, Jordan.