

An expert in youth and adolescents' issues in Sudan:

There are no Special Programmes for Adolescents in State Policies

Taj al-Sir Doulib, professor of psychology at Alahfad University, Secretary-General of the Sudanese Family Planning Association, member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Um Durman and the first expert in Sudan in the affairs of Adolescents spoke to Adoonline:

Adoonline: who is the adolescent ?

Adolescent is a person who has grown from infancy to adulthood and between the age of 13 to 19 years.

Adoonline: The Sudanese Family Planning Association conducted four years ago a study on adolescence under your supervision. What are the most important characteristics of adolescents according to this study?

The study covered several areas through which we have tried to identify adolescents as experienced by of both sexes. Indeed, there is no doubt that the physiological change and the full growth of female sexual Endocrinology and the male masculinity impacts their behaviour.

In terms of trends and attitudes, self-assertion and fulfilling male and female roles are at the forefront of these trends, Then comes their attempt to attain emotional independence from parents and their search to establish relationships

with those at the same age and from both sexes and developing the skills of mind and concepts needed to deal with the community... These trends and behaviours differ among males and females in accordance with the cultural and social factors affecting the individual.

Adoonline: Is there any social discrimination among adolescents ?

Several concepts and social values based on culture are marked by gender discrimination Adolescent girls in Sudan are required a social role that differs from the boys not only at home but also on the level of the community that restricts the girls due to misconceptions which essentially affect their autonomy, We, in the Arab society, are in great need of promoting the concept of gender equality.

Adoonline: Are there special development strategies for adolescents in the state policy?

State policies tend generally to take interest on youth who are older than adolescents. As adolescents are discarded from state programmes and policies. Thus, it is essential to take this important segment of society into account in state policies and involve educationalists, psychologists, and physicians to help in programmes targeting adolescents.

Adoonline: As an expert on the issues of youth and adolescence What are the most important scientific studies and research in this area?

I have conducted several studies on the problems of adolescents and youth and how to address them, As well as examined family and sexual education in the secondary school curriculum and reproductive health... The studies and research which I have carried out aim to data to researchers, adolescents and families to help them and the community to address the needs of this difficult stage safely and easily.

In conclusion I would like to pay tribute to the efforts of “Cawtar” in this field, and I hope that the ado network established by the center will come into effect as we are in the most need of it for the sake of adolescents in the Arab world.

*Huweida Salim Jaber/Sudan
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pregnancy. Women usually tend to be silent. This is a widespread phenomenon even in western societies, where the victims do not tell of what happened to them easily. Women are also afraid to cause problems to their family which might result in their killing.

Besides, women cannot find any one to listen to their could complain; this is why we lay emphasis on the importance of setting up a high committee for women's affairs.

Adoonline: Through your work as a member of the teaching staff and your direct contact with students, have you noticed the problems they are facing in their life and their fear to face them up in the future?

The greatest problem facing female students at this time is job. This problem has an impact on their level of education, for they are studying with no target, because they feel that they will remain at home for many years. The other problems consist in the lack of a good academic environment and leisure activities. I wonder here, how we deprive female girls from leisure activities and allow male students to do them? We are still considering female students as kids, and we impose on them some rules. Yet, girls' delinquency starts at home and not at the university. Unfortunately, Some members of the educational staff fail to help female students feel self-confident and provide them with the opportunity to rely on themselves. Female students need to win self-confidence and abilities as human beings that have reached a high level of responsibility.

*Nahed Bachtah /Saudi Arabia
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