

أنبارنا

ثقافية - اخبارية - متنوعة

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Determination Creates Passion

No pain, no gain...

After black clouds, clear weather...

After a hurricane, comes a rainbow...

Those were a reflection of the words said by Jawaher Al-Nabhan when she described to us her sufferings throughout the way of completing her study.

Jawaher is a 27 year-old woman from the countryside of Aleppo. She lives in Al-Rayan Camp, in Azaz north Aleppo, and she shared with us some details on how she decided to complete her study.

«Displacement conditions forced me to drop out of school, but I decided to complete my study after 11 years. Actually, I made this decision after a failure marriage, which resulted in two kids.

Right after divorce, I joined hairdressing trainings. Then, I opened my own beauty salon. Meanwhile, I was always passionate about completing my study. I worked on educating myself by reading a lot of books, learning different languages, and joining educational and cultural courses.

Too many obstacles stood against me, namely the poor study environment and the noisy camp. However, I was determined to restructure and reorganize my life.

A counselor working in a women support center helped me set specific goals to complete my study. This was a paradigm shift that changed my lift. I also have to mention both my parents supported and encouraged me to move on towards reaching my goals.

I did high school exams and I passed it with high marks, which enabled me to join the Department of Psychological Counselling at the College of Education. I hope one day I can obtain a Ph.D. in psychology.

I would like to urge all girls and women, who are reading my story today, to keep moving forward and never give up no matter how hard and painful the fall is. In life, you have to pass failure to meet up with success.

I believe that seeking knowledge and education is not limited to a certain age or time. I became a role model for my siblings, and they are more motivated now to complete their studies».



Ara.com

A university degree is the strongest and most protective weapon a girl can carry to ensure herself a good future.

We addressed followers of WSU web pages with the following question: «Do you think that a university degree is important for women?»

We supported our question with a verse quoted from Ahmad Shawqi's poem, mainly saying:

«With knowledge you can raise a house that has no support. With ignorance and honorable and mighty home is brought to ruin.»

No one can deny that educating females has a positive impact on the whole society at social, economic, and political levels. Empowering women also help them adapt to difficulties, play other roles than their traditional ones, and change their life.

The followings are some of the answers we received:

«A university degree is one of the protective tools for girls and women, but it's not the only one».

Rania



«A university degree is a very powerful weapon that can be used at any time; today and in the future».

Zeinab



«There's no doubt that women are treated and looked at as weak members of the society, especially in war times. But no man can beat an educated woman with a university degree».

Rama



«I believe that every girl should be equipped with a university degree in order to face life difficulties, especially in times of crisis. Every girl and women should act as an effective member in the society instead of expecting help from other people. In case the girl had to leave school for some reason, she had better learn how to do a certain job that can help her support herself and her family and contribute to building her society».

Nahed



// Education is a Beacon of Light

A family is the first cell of which the society is composed, and a woman is the nucleus of that cell. You can imagine how noble and remarkable both families and the societies be if women in them are flawless and ignorance-free.

Education is one of women's legitimate rights, just as their right of life. Holy Quran promoted education in many verses and stressed that the educated and the ignorant are not the same.

Women's right of education has been neglected due to outdated customs and traditions and stereotypes circulated by many people. Therefore, in the Syrian society we find that Syrian educated women above 40 to Syrian educated men (of the same age) make only 4%. This percentage increases based on how old the people (males and females) are, and vice versa. For example, there is almost a similar percentage of Syrian educated men who are in their 30s to Syrian educated women of the same age. This proves that Syrian girls' desire and motivation to learn and become educated has been increasing for the last two decades.

However, there are still many people in the Syrian society who deny girls' right of education and believe that it's useless. These people also believe that males' education is a priority if compared to females' education especially in northern Syria with the increase of displace-

ment movement and the spread of poverty and unemployment.

The Syrian society in general is still convinced of the stereotypes saying that: (women belong to their husbands' homes, educating girls make them arrogant, and marriage protects girls from a lot of social problems).

Some families believe that educating girls is a choice not a necessity, and the necessity requires that boys (not girls) should be educated, because when these boys grow up, they will be heads of their families, winning their bread and responsible for supporting them. As a result, instead of sending girls to schools and universities, you'd see parents saving that money to pay it later to their sons.

The importance of females' education lies in different aspects of life, and this was the reason that urged many Syrian activists to launch awareness raising activities, initiatives, and advocacy campaigns. Women support and empowerment centers have emerged during the last 5 years in northern Syria for this goal mainly.

Educating girls plays a great role in preventing the phenomenon of early marriage as it mostly leads to early divorce and family breakdown. «I have met many girls aged between 16 and 17 and are already divorced. Some of them were

married for less than a year and became mothers».

When girls are allowed to finish the stage of high school (at least), early marriages will decrease because by then girls will have completed their 18 years and they become well-aware of the responsibilities lying under being married.

Educated mothers show better care about their children's physical and psychological health and raise them up on the basis of helping them differentiate between good and bad things. Here, I am not underestimating uneducated women because every married woman with children is a mother, but the level of awareness and knowledge among them might differ.

Women's education helps with the advancement and cohesion of the society in general and the families in particular. An educated woman is more capable of being engaged in discussions and finding more aware solutions for the problems they or their family members face. This makes women also more capable of handling life pressure, running family affairs, and participating effectively in every detail.

Educated women are less likely to be exploited as they are usually more aware of all their rights and demanding them under rules and regulations, including the right of inheritance as well as alimony, dowry, and custody of children in the event of being divorced.

They can also stand by the men in their families and help them run the house and provide basic needs of life especially under current war conditions where prices have increased dramatically. This makes the woman a supporter rather than being a burden.

Women have been always considered as the completing half of the society where men make the first half. They are mothers, sisters and wives and they can play a more effective role if seek for education.

Written by: Sanaa al-Ali



In the opinion column of our paper, we publish articles that reflects views of authors who wrote them and necessarily views of Women Support Unit.

The «Participation» Project inspires initiating other projects



When a project is implemented by civil society organizations on the ground, there are usually multiple outcomes and success stories based on the project itself and the environment within which it's implemented. The strongest project is that which results in ideas and information leading to a greater potential of sustainable benefits for a certain group of the society.

«Empowering Women's Political and Leading Role» is the result project of «Participation» project, which was completed by Al-Bab Sub-committee of Women Support Unit, after the trainees were targeted with different trainings on strategic planning, project management, accounting, and media. The idea of this project was inspired by the need for raising women's political awareness and educating them about the importance of their presence in leadership and decision-making positions, especially with the increasing

impact of outdated customs and traditions and men's rejection of the idea that women can hold leadership positions.

A group of female trainees formed a team to start working on the project proposal. Some of these trainees were university students and others were employees. First, they worked on reflecting the theoretical information they gained from the training on their community. Then, they ran a needs assessment, set goals of the project, and participated in choosing the activities under direct supervision of the trainer, who directed them well and helped them reach an integrated project proposal.

This achievement proves the importance of trainings which raise women's awareness, build their capacities and make them capable of planning and writing projects that result in greater benefits and serve as an inspiration for future projects and activities.



News of the committees

Qabasin Committee:

WUS sub-committee of Qabbasin held a training a number of sessions as follows:

A training on Common Ground Methodology.

A session on Personal Status.

A session on Self-Esteem.

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beneficiary

W S U

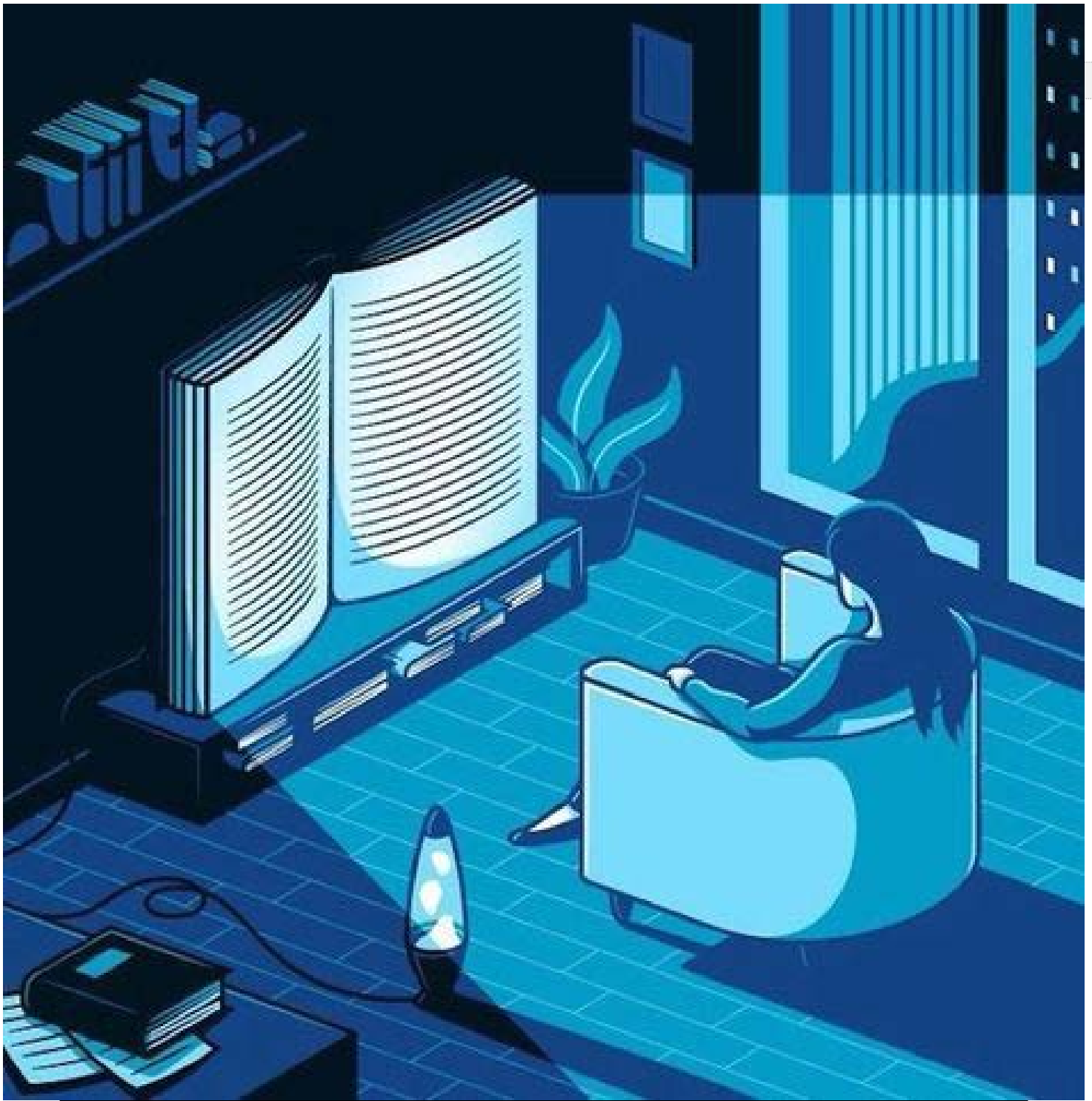
WSU sub-committees in Azaz, Afrin, Jarablus, Qabbasin, Bza'a, and Al-Bab held a needs assessment session for their members. The session resulted in a number of recommendations on the sessions and trainings which WSU members need.

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beneficiary



A local, non-profit civil society organization for women's affairs, launched in 2018 through a conference attended by more than 150 women in rural northern and eastern Aleppo from Afrin to reaching to Jarablus.



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The geographical zone of the WSU's work: northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo