

The reality of employing school libraries in the educational process in Jordan from teachers and librarians' perspectives

Research – Methodology

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Abstract

The study's objective is to investigate the reality of library activities within the curriculum, the frequency of library classes in school schedules, and identify the levels of use of libraries and their contribution to education. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used. The total library activities within the topics taught in the first ten stages were no more than 92 activities. There is no structured methodology for distributing library activities in the curriculum in all grades. Thus, the employment of libraries in the educational process was weak. Also, the link between libraries and the curriculum prescribed was weak. The study contributes to filling the gaps between the concept of school library education and the reality of school libraries in the educational process. The study recommended that the library activities be sufficiently included in curricula for all grades to allocate library classes in the weekly program for learning library skills.

Keywords

school library, library education, Jordan, teachers, librarians

3. Methodology

The study used a mixed-method approach (qualitative and quantitative methods) to achieve the study objectives and was conducted in the second semester of the academic year 2023–2024 in private schools in Jordan. A total of six private schools were selected to extract the target population. The current study population included librarians, and faculty members working in the private schools of Jordan. Of the overall population, 125 participants participated in this study, including both; librarians and faculty members. Table 1 provides details regarding the male and female population and a sample of teachers and librarians, along with the overall number of students enrolled in six schools. The following questions will be answered in this study:

1. To what extent the curriculum includes assignments and activities carried out in the library?
2. What is the reality of involving school libraries in the educational process?
3. Does the school schedule include a time in the library?
4. What is the reality of employing school libraries by teachers and librarians in the educational process?
5. What is the importance of employing the library in the educational process?
6. What is the availability of electronic information resources within the e-learning system?

Table 1. Study Population and Sample.

School	Type	Population		Sample		Numbers of Students in Schools	
		Male	Female	male	Female	male	Female
1	Mixed elementary	-	35	-	15	-	450
2	Female comprehensive	-	12	-	10	-	490
3	Male elementary	30	-	30	-	470	-
4	Secondary	-	38	-	21	-	420
5	elementary	22	-	22	-	160	-
6	elementary	41		27		600	

Total		93	85	79	46	1230	1360
		N= 178		N= 125		N=2,590	

The selection of the participants was based on the following characteristics. As indicated in Table 2, most of the participants were male, i.e., n=79, and were teachers, i.e., n=119. From the selected sample, n=85 teachers had specialization in the degree of social sciences, while most participants, i.e., n=106, had completed their BA. Regarding the experience level, n=54 of them had an overall experience of 8–4 years.

Table 2. Characteristics of Study Sample

Independent Variable	Variable Levels	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	79	63.2
	Female	46	36.8
Job	Teacher	119	95.2
	Librarian	6	4.8
Specialization	IT	18	14.4
	applied Sciences	16	12.8
	Social sciences	85	68
	Libraries	6	4.8
Educational level	Diploma	10	8
	BA	106	84.8
	Postgraduate	9	7.2
Experience	1–3	40	32
	4–8	54	43.2
	9– and more	31	24.8

Both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect data collection. Quantitative information was collected through a questionnaire, which consisted of 28 items. While qualitative findings were made by conducting interviews and analyzing students' curricula to determine the library's activities included and the schedules of the study programs. Before commencing the data collection procedure, informed consent was obtained from all the participants. Finally, the collected information was analyzed using the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS), and the results were presented through descriptive statistics.

Ten faculty members tested the reliability of the questionnaire in the Department of Library Science. To test the stability of performance, the Test-Retest test was applied. Ten questionnaires were distributed to the study population from those not included in the sample. After a week, the questionnaire was redistributed to the same sample. Stability was examined to measure the independence of information within the measuring instrument. The holistic equation was applied, and the consistency rate was found to be 87%, which is acceptable.