

Summary

Introduction:

The student unions are a social organization achieves the efficiency and activity for the students at the college and the university level to achieve the stability and the social security for the students for not seeking out for legitimacy with the political and religious movements which cause the value contradiction, which requires a set of procedures and activities taken by these unions.

The clear objective behind the establishment and composition of these unions, is making the policy of the effective student activities which aims to connect the students with their social reality, through the practice of many programs, in addition to spread a democratic culture and accustom students to the democratic climate based on actual practice, both in student elections or activities, as well as the ability to link with the student base that feels them that they are safe, and leads their interests and upholds them, which would reduce conflicts and schisms within the corridors of the university by raising the level of awareness of their own interests and the interests of society.

The necessity of this study to identify the role of student unions in developing the political participation, and the formation of the right and positive political thought within the university, which will be reflected on the society at all levels and standards, and not even make the students a prey to the destructive ideas and trends which work on spreading intellectual and religious extremism, and generate a case of the instability and the rule of the culture of violence and misunderstanding.

The Study Problem:

As the youth sector in general and the university in particular, cannot be dropped from the accounts of the National

Action, the importance of the role of student unions in reconfiguration and guidance the political intellectual and believable system among young people and the university students comes to become effective and influential entity in the university life and then came the necessity and justifications for this study.

The study problem could be stated in the following main question:

- "What is the role of student unions in developing of the political participation among the university students in Egypt?"

A number of sub-questions could be derived as follows:

1. What are the most important features of the historical evolution of the role of the student movement in the political Egyptian life and the regulations governing the students' work since the inception of student unions?
2. What are the objectives of student unions, and their most important organizational and functional foundations?
3. What is the concept of political participation, its components, dimensions, types, and related concepts?
4. What are the features of the political participation of the Egyptian university students since 2007 to 2013?
- 5 - What is the reality of the role of the university student unions in achieving the political participation of university students?
- 6 - What the proposed perception for activating the role of student unions in developing the political participation of the university students in Egypt?

The Study Aims:

The recent study aimed at:

1. Identifying the political role of the Student Unions.
2. Detection of the most important features of the historical evolution of Student Unions.

3. Specifying the dimensions of the process of political participation, its components, types, and the most important related.
4. Identifying the features of the political participation of the Egyptian university students since 2007 to 2013.
5. Detection of the reality of the contribution of student unions in developing the political participation in the university and the most important factors and forces acting in this role.
6. Determining the mechanisms and proposals to activate the role of the university student unions in the development of political participation.

The Study Importance:

The study is considered important as:

1. The scarcity of research and studies that addressed the role of university student unions in the development of political participation. The study seeks to enrich the knowledge qualitatively and quantitatively in this field.
2. The importance of the study the university youth sector, the present human capital and the makers of the political future, due to the nature and seriousness of the role of this sector.
3. Keeping up the global concerns and visions of the political reform, by studying and discussing the political role of the youth.
4. Generating a degree of awareness among the university students about the student rights for political participation.
5. Invitation to create a free scientific climate that allows for students the freedom of opinion and constructive criticism and positive participation within the campus.
6. It is expected that the proposed perception of the current study would help in activating the role of student unions in

developing of the political participation among the university students in Egypt.

The Study Method:

The current study used the analytical descriptive method that deals with the current realities of the nature of the phenomenon or situation or set of events. As well as the use of the historical method to learn about the historical evolution of the student movement.

The Study Tools:

1. A questionnaire addressed to the fourth year students in the universities are specified in limits, as well as the staff of the Youth Welfare; to identify the extent of their knowledge of the organizational and functional facts of the student unions, as well as the reality of their role in developing the political participation among the university students.
2. A questionnaire addressed to the faculty members at universities are specified in limits; to identify the extent of their knowledge by the role of the student unions in developing the political participation of the students at the university, as well as to identify their opinions on the proposals for activation made by the researcher to activate the role of unions in developing the political participation among students in the university.

The Study Limitations:

- The study is limited to the role of the student unions in developing of the political participation.
- The study is limited to evaluating the role of the student unions in developing the political participation in the faculties of science, literature and education to some Egyptian universities (Fayoum - Cairo - Alexandria).

The study sample:

The study sample consisted of three categories:

- A sample of students, about (909) of the fourth year students in the faculties according to the limits of the study.
- A sample of youth welfare staff, about (97) according to the limits of the study.
- A sample of faculty members, about (200) according to the limits of the study.

The Study Results:

In light of discussing the field study results, the following could be presented:

A - Knowledge the functional and organizational facts of the Student Union from the students' perspective.

- 1- Increasing the cognitive aspects in general is an important indicator and a key to enter into a process of awareness, given the results of the field study we note that the student responses on this axis was low, which indicates that there is a clear shortage in the extent of their knowledge of the representative union to them, that has appeared in the lack of the students' knowledge as they pay an annual fee to go to the treasury of the student unions, and do not know mechanism of its formation, or even how its relation with the faculty members the staff of the Youth Welfare, which shows the weakness of student's attention with the student unions and the represented organizational and functional facts but this cognitive shortage responsibility of two parties:
 - Student unions, which failed to communicate with students, and to attract them to participate in student activities, perhaps for lack of interest in this communication, which has not made to search for new patterns of communication with students, and to

convince them that they are representative and defender of their interests.

- Students (the student base), who can be described after the interview a lot of them during the application that there is a large sector of them, if not the majority, suffer from an intended negativity towards the recognition of student unions and activities, and was probably the main reason for this lack of awareness and faith in the message of the student unions, which has the greatest impact in accusing members as (a group) of users and climbers, and the current study agrees in this with the findings of (the study of Nadia Mohamed Radwan 1977, Emil Fahmi Shenouda 1978, Ahmed Rabie Daher 1985, Emad Mohammed Gamil Saudi 1992, Inas Abu Seif 2000, Nourhan El Sheikh 2007), in spite of the disparity in time between these studies, however, this indicates that the student unions facing a problem in communication with the students, and deficiencies in the awareness and faith in its message towards them, it is a deep trouble and firmly rooted several decades ago.
- 2- The study showed the presence of impact of the scientific specialization and quality of the study colleges on students' knowledge of the organizational and functional facts about Unions, there are statistically significant differences in favor of colleges operation at the level of significance (0.01) compared to theoretical and education colleges, as well as there are statistically significant differences in favor of the colleges of education at the level of significance (0.01) compared to other theoretical colleges.
- 3 - study also showed the presence of the impact of the environment and the geographical location of the University on

students' knowledge of the organizational and functional facts of union, where there are statistically significant differences in favor of students of the University of Cairo, about the rest of Universities (Fayoum - Alexandria), in favor of the University of Cairo at the level of significance (0.01), while there are no significant differences between the students of the Universities of Fayoum and Alexandria.

- The study of the impact of the academic specialization, the geographical location of the University and the surrounding environment on the students' knowledge about union, what distinguishes the current study from the others, with no discussion by previous studies, as well as the impact of the time and the successive the events in the country like, the fraught divisions that cast a shadow over the university and the loss of confidence in the other and not to accept it.

B - Knowledge the functional and organizational facts of the Student Union from the perspective of youth care staff.

- 1 - The youth care staff responses about this axis is relatively low, it is unexpected from the party that has for many years to plan and carry out all the activities of the union, indicating the need for training and requalification ; so that they can perform their roles towards the Union.
- 2 - The study resulted in the conclusion that the loss of youth care staff of awe and prestige that had been enjoyed for many years - in the point of view of the members of the union - may be due to two reasons:
 - The new regulation, and the resulting withdraw of many of the powers they have gained over the decades, and transferred to an executive like a Secretariat of the Council of the union.

- A loss of confidence in the care of young people; accused of being a follower of the former regime and has been working under its auspices for long periods , caused the discharge of its content, and credibility.
- 3 - The study showed the weakness of the impact of the scientific specialization and the quality of study in colleges on the knowledge of the youth care staff about the organizational and functional facts of the union, where there are no statistically significant differences between the practical and theoretical colleges and colleges of education.
- 4 - study also showed the presence of the impact of the environment and the geographical location of the University on the knowledge of the staff of the Youth care about the organizational and functional facts of Union, while there are statistically significant differences in favor of the staff of the Youth care at the University of Alexandria, for the rest of Universities (Fayoum - Cairo), when the level of significance (0.01), while there are no significant differences between the staff of the universities of Cairo and Fayoum.

C -The reality of the political participation in the Egyptian universities, and the role of the student union towards it from the perspective of students.

- 1 - The student responses about this axis is low, which indicates an impaired ability of the students to follow the reality of the performance of the student union and its role in developing the political participation for them, and this confirms that the union lives isolated from the student base which has not waited for a lot from, that refers to the absence of the political role of the Union, despite the existence of a political and cultural committee.

- 2- The study found low levels of political participation practiced by the students through the Union, which indicated that most of the responses of students are located in the area of activities of onlookers from a distance, or (follow-up without the participation of) according to the classification of Malbrt, this result came relatively strange compared to what seen in the country of political momentum, as most political participation practiced by the university students come from political belonging to political movements and parties, and not through the Union.
- 3 - The study showed the presence of impact of the scientific specialization and the quality of study in colleges on the reality of political participation offered by the Union for the students of the university, where there are statistically significant differences in favor of the practical colleges at the level of significance (0.01) compared to the theoretical colleges and education colleges, as well as no statistically significant differences in favor of the colleges of education at the level of significance (0.01) compared to other the theoretical colleges.
- The study also explained the lack of impact to the environment or geographical location of the university on the reality of political participation offered by the Union for university students, where there are no statistically significant differences among the three university students (Cairo - Fayoum - Alexandria).

D -The reality of the political participation in the Egyptian universities, and the role of the student union towards it from the point of view of the staff of the Youth care

- 1 - The responses of staff of the youth care around this axis is medium, indicating apathy in youth care in the follow-up to the

- reality of the performance of the student union and its role in developing political participation; due to the new regulation, as well as the relatively low in the levels of support to motivate the students and encourage them to participate in the Union.
- 2 - The study showed no impact of the scientific specialization and quality of the study in colleges on the reality of the political participation offered by the Union for the university students, where there are no statistically significant differences between college students the practical and theoretical, as well as colleges of education.
 - 3 - The study also pointed out the lack of impact to the environment or geographical location of the university on the reality of political participation offered by the Union for university students, where there are no statistically significant differences between the youth care staff at the three universities (Cairo - Fayoum - Alexandria).

E -The reality of the political participation in the Egyptian universities, and the role of the student union towards it from the point of view of faculty members.

- 1 - The responses of the faculty members about this axis is low, indicating a shortening of faculty members in the performance of their education towards their students, as well as weak follow-up to the reality of the performance of the student union, and its role in developing the political participation, as well as the relatively low levels of the support to motivate the students and encourage them to participate in the Union.
- 2 - The study showed the presence of the impact of scientific specialization and the quality of study in colleges on the reality of the political participation offered by the Union for university students, where there are statistically significant

differences to the favor colleges theory, compared the process and colleges as well as colleges of education.

- 3 - The study also showed the presence of the impact to the environment or the geographical location of the university on the reality of the political participation offered by the Union for university students, there were statistically significant differences in favor of Fayoum University, compared the Universities of Cairo and Alexandria.

F – The obstacles to the political participation of the Union.

The study showed that the most obstacles which were agreed on by the various categories of the sample, and could be clarified by the entity responsible for:

1 - The general climate of the state and the university administrations (administrative obstacles)

- The difficulty of communication between the political and intellectual currents in the university because of the lack of common ground.
- The Intellectual collision and the spacing visions between the university leaders and the union leaders.
- The preoccupation of some members of the university community in the academic performance at the expense of activities.
- The lack of available time to practice the activities of the Union because of the overcrowding school day with lectures because of the semester system.
- The weakness of the physical and human resources for the Union to perform its roles.

2 –The obstacles due to the members of the Union (technical obstacles)

- The absence of clarity of the expected role of the members of the Student Union.
- The weakness the role of the Union in attracting students to participate in various activities.
- The weakness of interest to hold seminars or meetings to discuss educational, societal and political issues.
- The lack of the devoted time to spread the culture of the political participation.
- The shortcomings to provide the adequate information about the dates of the student union elections.

3- The obstacles due to the student base (Self obstacles)

- The reluctance to follow-up the Union and its activities.
- The uncertainty in the objectives of the candidates for their desire to achieve their personal interests.
- The fear of the election because of the fear of failure.
- The loss of confidence about who do the affairs of the elections as well as the transparency of the procedures.

after displaying the results of the field study and standing on the most important obstacles that hinder the Union to do its role in developing the political participation, as well as to identify the views of the sample in the proposals made by the researcher; therefore it helps with the construction of the proposed perception to activate the role of student unions in developing the political participation of the University students in Egypt.

The proposed perception:

In the light of the theoretical and field analysis for the various aspects of the study and its results, the researcher would display a proposed perception to activate the role of the student

unions in developing the political participation among the university students in Egypt.

The following are the most important aspects of this proposed perception:

A-The philosophy and objectives of the proposed perception

The philosophy of the proposed perception is to activate the role of student unions in the development of political participation among university students in Egypt through the preamble of the university to support the various students' participations as a scientific environment that affects to a great extent in the lives of its students culturally and intellectually.

According to this vision, the proposed perception seeks to be the urgent and necessary response to face the challenges of the student union, which hinder its role in developing the political participation, through identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the role of the union, and the variables that are facing as pillars for the construction of this perception.

B- The objectives of the proposed perception:

- Emphasis on developing the civil, political and moral responsibility for the students in the vision and message of the university and its colleges.
- The restructuring of the campus culture and its colleges to support the deployment of a culture of participation in the university
- Address the negative impacts and obstacles that prevent students from participating in various activities
- Reconsider the functions of the Student Union so that exceed voting in the student elections, and to provide volunteer service to the students' participation as active citizens within and outside the campus.

C - The dimensions of the proposed perception

The proposed perception is based - according to the theoretical framework and the results of the field study - on five basic dimensions to activate the role of student unions in developing the political participation among the university students in Egypt, they are:

- 1 – The dimension of deploying the culture of participation in the university.
- 2 - The dimension of the organizational regulation of the Union, and activation of its committees.
- 3 - The dimension of censorship on the mechanism of the formation of the Student Union, and how the performance its roles.
- 4 - The dimension of increasing the funding of the Union.
- 5 - The dimension of the adoption of a national plan for the development of the roles of the Union.

D- Mechanisms for implementation of the proposed perception

the researcher Indicates to the most important ways to activate the role of student unions in developing the political participation among the students of the university in Egypt, is to overcome the main obstacles facing this role, through activating the role of the students, and improve their level of skill; to enable them to perform tasks and procedures needed for the Union, in cooperation with the administration of the universities and institutions of civil society, especially the civil and political parties and movements, as well as the working institutions in the field of human rights and freedom of opinion, as well as the institutions of the state itself, according to the outcomes of the theoretical framework and the results of the field study.

E –The obstacles of the implementation of the proposed perception

- The difficulty of the liberation from traditional education systems, relying on the university book as the sole source of knowledge.
- Inadequate the academic culture to support the culture of participation.
- The continuation of the system of two semesters.
- Giving priority to the political affiliation on the student interest.
- Skepticism about the feasibility and importance of participation.

F - Suggestions to overcome the obstacles that may face the implementation of the proposed perception

- Making the development of the civic and political participation for students is an important standard for the adoption of the educational institutions, especially university.
- Recognition of the Students Union as a responsible executive like other state institutions committed to its obligations to students through the continuous legitimacy of the fair results of students' elections.
- Emphasis on the right of students to form a general assembly for the students, which has the right to hold accountable to those responsible of the students in the student union for their performance in jobs that elected to do.

The real solution to activate the role of the Union Lies in, the need to come from the students themselves and have the motivated and genuine desire to improve their conditions, as well as improving the conditions of the system represented them, a student union, with the help of all available resources, whether physical as sources of income of the Union or humanity through benefit from the experiences of trained administrative staff, as well as faculty members by holding training courses in the field of civil and political awareness within the university, which contributes to improving their technical level of performance.