The Developmental Role of Universities in Promoting Citizenship Values Among Their Students

Abstract:

Achieving community development is a shared responsibility that necessitates the concerted efforts of all stakeholders to meet desired objectives. This can be accomplished through activating or advancing the role of various economic, social, cultural, and educational sectors to optimize the use of available resources, ensuring the sustainability of targeted development.

Universities are among the most pivotal sectors contributing to development in both developed and developing nations. Their unique nature positions them as essential partners in societal advancement, as they possess a wealth of scientific heritage that includes innovative research and experiments. Moreover, universities are rich in human resources, whether fully qualified, such as faculty members and researchers, or those in the process of qualification, represented by university students. Some have even referred to universities as agencies of innovation and hubs for the creation of human capital.

Since this issue was first raised in 1969, numerous successful university-led initiatives across various countries have demonstrated their role in achieving economic, social, and cultural development. This study seeks to describe and analyze these experiences, focusing on the role of student activity programs in preparing students to contribute to the university's developmental initiatives, uncovering and investing in youthful talents, and supporting their nontraditional initiatives aimed at community development.

The current research aims to describe and analyze the contributions of Fayoum University's community-based initiatives—comprising social activities conducted both on and off-campus in collaboration with active societal institutions and leveraging the university's human and material resources—toward fostering community development. It also seeks to explore their role in nurturing citizenship values among university students, identifying the challenges hindering these efforts, and ultimately presenting a proposed framework for enhancing the developmental role of universities in promoting citizenship values among students.

Keywords: University's Developmental Role, Sustainable Development, Citizenship Values, National Belonging Value