

# ELITE

ISSUE 15 JANUARY 2020



DR. MONA ZULFICAR

AMONG FORBES #100  
INFLUENTIAL LADIES IN THE  
REGION

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR  
2020



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Issued by the Faculty of  
Economics and Political  
Science, Cairo University

# ELITE

*FEPS, where elites are made..*  
Volume 1 - Issue 15 - January 2020

Designed by Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018



Happy New  
Year 2020



# GRADUATION DAY

*Special Coverage*

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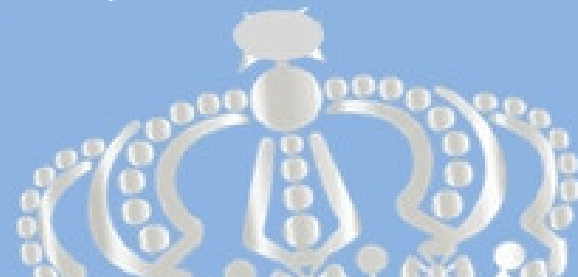
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[elite@feps.edu.eg](mailto:elite@feps.edu.eg)







• **FORBES TOP #100 INFLUENTIAL LADY IN THE REGION DR. MONA ZULFICAR IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ELITE INSTITUTIONAL AND JUDICIAL REFORM OF GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT AGENCIES ARE NEEDED IN OUR NATIONAL STRATEGY**

• **When did you first become acquainted with the Faculty of Economics and why did you specifically choose it?**

When I graduated from Secondary school, the Faculty of Economics & Political Science was relatively new and known as the faculty of excelling students. This meant that the scope of job opportunities for its graduates in the labor market would be more promising. It was also the first to offer specialization in Political Science making it the destination of students coming from the different Arab countries. I was only but 16 years old then and I did not yet think of becoming a lawyer, and the Faculty of Law was not an attractive option at the time. Accordingly, my choices were limited to two: either to choose the Faculty of Economics and Political Science to potentially be a diplomat, or take Cinematic direction and be a director of movies. I chose the former, but after working for a few years at the UN, and one year as a manager of one of the major law offices in Cairo, I found my way. It was then that I discovered that I find my happiness and fulfillment in a free profession as opposed to employment. I decided that I wanted to join the noble legal profession as a lawyer, so I went back to study Law while training as a lawyer. Eventually, I found myself in this career and my background at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science helped me become a distinguished and non-traditional lawyer.

• **Who are the professors that influenced your personality the most?**

All our professors at the time had an important influence on particularly that our class comprised about 100 students only. However, those who influenced me personally the most were, Prof. Zaki Shafei, who was the Faculty Dean at the time, Prof. Fathallah Al-Khateeb, Prof. Abdelamalek Odah, and Prof. Khairy Eissa. I really enjoyed my college life. Although I was academically successful, I joined multiple extra-curricular activities; I was the star of the drama team during the first two years and we won the university's trophy. We performed plays of internationally acclaimed writers on the stage of the National Theatre in the Arabic Fusha, I also took part in sports and cultural activities, and established language tutoring classes to help my colleagues. There was one time when Prof. Mustafa Al-Saeed asked to meet my father the renowned actor Salah Zulficar, and he told my father that if I were to focus on my studies and decrease the time I dedicate to different activities I would have easily become the top of my class. What I want to say is that college life is much more than just studying and that such activities help significantly to build various aspects of a student's personality and are thus very important. I remember my Professors from whom I learnt a lot with remarkable memories and gratitude.

• **How does the Faculty of Economics and Political Science enrich its students?**

Our Faculty is unique, as it gives its students a multicultural background allowing them to have



- **After the 2014 Constitution impressive efforts in empowering different groups, Women still need to be empowered in the judiciary**

scientific knowledge in diverse and significant fields. One of the exceptional skills acquired is the Research Seminar, which qualifies the students to research and write academic papers, join intellectual discussions and innovate.

Therefore, if we add the different social, cultural and sports activities to the academic content, we would find that the Faculty offers opportunities to build the students' character in a comprehensive way; I myself owe my success as a lawyer to the Faculty of Economics and Political Science.

- **What are the Faculty's most demanded majors currently?**

These are the majors of Economics and Political Science, through them students can join the MOFA, and international organizations, as well as. Economic activity has now become one of the main pillars of diplomacy, and promoting Egyptian economic activities has become one of the most important roles of the diplomatic corp. In addition to that, it opens opportunities to join banks and financial institutions, the corporate world and non-governmental organizations. As for myself, I take part in international organizations representing Egypt – as a part of its civil society; I am a member of the National Council for Human Rights, which is an entity independent from the government. I also participate in international conferences and can say that the skills I learnt at our Faculty have helped me a great deal to do a good job. Our graduates are present in the different fields such as the media, major banks and companies and the MOFA. My advice to anyone who wishes to work in those fields is to improve their

languages because this is an essential requirement for those who want to work for the diplomatic corps, major banks or international organizations.

- **As a renowned figure in the fields of economics, stock exchange and microfinance; what is your evaluation of the current economic situation in Egypt and what can be your future expectations?**

As a specialized corporate lawyer, I always deal with governmental institutions and consistently recommend new laws or regulations to the government, the Central Bank or the Financial Regulatory Authority to enhance investment or facilitate transactions with the outside world. I specialize in banking, project finance, and mergers & acquisitions, particularly transactions between Egyptian and foreign banks. Accordingly, I see that the Egyptian economy is recovering, as a result of the recent economic reform program which addressed our chronic problems through difficult overdue structural adjustments. There are now more job opportunities resulting in decreased unemployment rates, an increase in tourism rates and I expect higher rates of growth in the near future, as well as the infrastructural leap forward, and a slowly increasing inflow of foreign direct investments (FDIs) to Egypt. We should recall that FDI increases, not only with stability in on the political and security fronts, as well as the economic reforms, but more specifically when the private sector is encouraged and becomes more active. FDI will flow into Egypt when foreign investors see the





• **Our guest Dr. Mona Zulficar taking photos with our editors (from left) Yasmin G. Mousa, Silvana Sobhy and Ramy Magdy**

trust that the Egyptian have in their economy. All those are important factors for the growth of the Egyptian economy.

• **What does the economic reform program need to be completed?**

I see that there is a need for structural reform in institutions that deal with investors to curb the red-tape and facilitate permits and approvals. For instance, the Civil Service Law was issued to restructure and improve the efficiency of governmental institutions. However, there is a need for institutional judicial reforms, to enhance the efficiency, specialization and the speed of the justice system and the enforceability of contracts. Most of the major contracts provide for international arbitration and seeks to avoid the jurisdiction of Egyptian courts due to its slow pace. Therefore, judicial reforms would not only benefit the investors but would also benefit the citizens themselves because justice is one of the pillars of stability and stability the base for investments.

• **As a legal expert, in light of the constitutional documents issued since 2011, what is your evaluation of the current status of the constitution?**

I have participated in all the activities related to the constitution since January 2011. I also dedicated my time and effort to contest the Muslim Brothers (MB) constitution during its formulation in 2013. I used to issue and circulate tables explaining and pointing out the booby-trapped articles in their proposed constitution, so that everyone would realize the dangers and risks to Egypt and the Egyptian identity that such a constitution would entail. Afterwards, I participated in the Committee of 50 and served as its Vice President. We worked under very hard conditions, and given the circumstances, the amended Constitution has achieved unprecedented gains, as it has affirmed certain rights for the first time for the Egyptian citizens, human rights, and women's rights.

These gains were not limited only to women but extended to the rights of the children, youth, the elderly and the disabled. The amended Constitution reinforced the principle of citizenship disregarding any religious, class, geographical or political affiliations or considerations. The Constitution also addresses for the first time de-centralisation which contributes to efficient utilization of regional resources and the relative competitive advantages of the various governorates. Currently, women hold 15% of parliamentary seats without quotas to be increased to 25% based on the recent amendments of the Constitution, and the objective of all the foregoing amendments to the Constitution is that they have a positive impact on the lives of all citizens.

• **You have an important role in the area of human rights, what is your evaluation of the status of human rights in Egypt in light of your work in the national human rights council?**

The National Council has issued a report, in the context of the Universal Periodic Review in 2019, to the International Human Rights Council in Geneva, as an independent report from that issued by the government. The report is as a matter of principle neutral and objective, as we mention the aspects of progress regarding human rights in Egypt as well as the aspects where there are shortcomings. For example, we called for the reconsideration of the law on pre-trial detentions because there are many accused persons who spend a long time in detention, but then are declared innocent by the court. therefore the legal provisions governing this matter must be reconsidered altogether. When we issue our reports on our visits to prisons and make any reservations, the Ministry of Interior works to remedy them and we follow up such remedies. Accordingly, the reports issued by the NHRC are independent,



recording what occurs in real life and objectively assessing the facts from a human rights perspective. Hence, we neither applaud nor criticize the whole time, but when progress is made in legislation, implementation or services, we record that as well.

• **You have a similarly an active role in women's rights, what is your evaluation of women's rights in Egypt?**

There has been a significant progress at the constitutional level and at the level of appointing women in leading positions; we currently have female ministers, vice ministers and members of parliament. On the other hand, there are still no equal opportunities in the judiciary. I hope that the Council of the State will consider positively the applications of the exceptional Egyptian women who are worthy of joining the Administrative Courts just as they proved their competence when they joined the judiciary in the ordinary courts; especially that the Egyptian woman is hardworking and precise and that the constitution has affirmed her right to be appointed to all judiciary positions, without discrimination.

The percentage of women's unemployment is more than two times the male's unemployment rate in youth and fresh graduates and the poverty rate in female headed households is one of the highest. So we work in financing micro projects as they help youth and the poor in general to fight poverty and unemployment, and around 70% of the beneficiaries are women. Nonetheless, the road ahead is still a long one, the new draft personal status laws are still laden with serious problems and there is still a considerable percentage of women who suffer from poverty and violence.

• **What about your role in formulating the law of Khul'a (women's right to unilateral divorce) in 2000?**

The movie "Oreed Halan, i.e. I need a solution" starring Faten Hamama was produced by my father Salah Zulficar

after being rejected by multiple producers because it was seen as non-commercial and that it wouldn't render profits. My father was a supporter of women's rights and Faten was enthusiastic about exposing and resolving the problems of married women who cannot attain their right to divorce by law. Therefore, he produced it; consequently these issues were part of my everyday life and I understood Khul' early in my life. When I started my legal career in the 80s I prepared a draft of a new marriage contract and campaigned that parents would put conditions in the marriage contract that protect their daughters, including Khul' and the right of a woman to divorce herself.. At first, it was attacked for being a western project; others attacked it for being a communist one; however, I proved that the Islamic marriage contract is a civil contract and that including conditions is typical, and I referred to the marriage contract of Al Sayeda Sukayna daughter of Al Hussien and others. The campaign continued till I reached the conclusion that a woman's right to unilaterally obtain divorce through (Khul'a) must be affirmed by law. It was a long battle but we succeeded in issuing the law in 2000 and the film was a great support. Although there were many challenges against the Khul'a provision, the Supreme Constitutional Court rejected them all. This law saved the lives of thousands of women suffering from violence or even unhappiness in getting divorce through accelerated Khul'a procedures, since women give up their deferred dowry and financial maintenance and automatically obtain divorce by Khul'a. Divorce for damage still takes a long time and hence must be reconsidered in order not to force women to give up their financial rights to obtain divorce.

• **What do you think about the draft regarding personal status law drafted by Al-Azhar?**





I see that AlAzhar's role should remain in the domain of revising laws not drafting them, as we need Al Azhar to remain a reference and an arbiter. I think that the government should submit a draft law that would be agreed upon by the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and Al-Azhar in a manner consistent with public policy rules under Sharia law. The government would have to take up such a mission by introducing a progressive draft law asserting the rights of women consistent with the needs of the 21st century.

• **Mona Zulficar is on the Forbes list of top 100 most influential women in the Arab World... Could you tell us more about this choice?**

I think that career distinction and voluntary public service activities provide the basis for such nomination. I played the key role in the establishment and success of the largest law firm in Egypt in the 90s, and established together with seven of the best experts in various fields of law another law firm in 2009 which quickly became one of the most important firms in Egypt and the Arab region, including 9 partners and more than 60 associates. I have also been a non-executive Chairperson of EFG Hermes Holding for 10 years now, which is the largest Egyptian regional investment bank, having presence in more than 13 countries in four continents. I am extremely proud that the executive management of the group is led by the best Egyptian experts and investment bankers who are capable of successfully competing in the emerging and frontier markets. I add to that as well my voluntary activities in the domains of social development, human rights, women's rights and combatting poverty through microfinance.

Yet, what I consider to be the most important contribution is my role in the development of younger generations of talented professional lawyers or through the institutions I helped in establishing. Moreover, throughout the past 25 years I focused on the economic empowerment of the poor through microfinance of their projects because that is the sustainable way out of poverty. I founded and chair the board of a non-governmental organization called "Al Tadamun Microfinance Foundation". In 2015 I got elected in such capacity as the Chairperson of the first Egyptian Microfinance Federation established pursuant to Law 141 for 2014, and through the significant support from the Central bank and the Egyptian banks as well as the Financial Regulatory Authority, we succeeded to drive a huge leap in the micro finance industry in the past 3 years increasing the number of beneficiaries from 2 million at end 2016 with a total portfolio of EGP 6.4 Billion to reach 3.4 million beneficiaries at end September 2019 with a total portfolio in excess of EGP 23 Billion.

Through Al Tadamun Microfinance Foundation, we finance women only, not out of bias in favor of women, but a bias in favor of the poor families and social development. This is because women invest the proceeds of finance on their micro-projects that benefit the children and the family as a whole. We have a repayment rate of 100%, 70 branches from north of the Delta reaching Assiut in the South, our portfolio reached around 500 million EGP financing around 200 thousand women beneficiaries; all of this though only one organization. As for the federation, it includes more than 900 Non-governmental Organizations and 9 private companies operating in the field of microfinance.

I also take pride in my work with the NCHR on drafting the law on equality of opportunities and the elimination of discrimination. I hope that this project comes to light as it will strengthen the concepts of citizenship and justice, as well as supporting efficiency and competence as basis for job appointments and promotion. This will also contribute to the elimination of corruption.

• **At the end, what advice would you give to the students of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science?**

My advice is to make full use of their college years and to participate in various cultural, artistic and sports activities because they help in the development of their skills and characters. When you search for jobs later on, they should search for jobs in the fields you enjoy and love as this is one of the secrets of success. I also advise them to participate in voluntary work because giving without expecting anything in return is one of the most important sources of inner psychological health, happiness and the sense of achievement; and there are many non-governmental organizations in Egypt that need the contribution of younger generations, that is your role.



## Mental Health & Depression

### Report with Cairo University Students

**Cairo: Carolin Sherief, Farah Ezzeldin, Hana Zakareyya, Habiba Atef and Dina Ehab**

On Tuesday 10th of December, 2019, a survey was held among college students from different faculties in Cairo University. Those faculties were faculty of Economics and political science, faculty of Arts, faculty of Law, faculty of Mass communication and faculty of Commerce. The survey was conducted with an equal ration among female and male students.

These students were asked some questions about psychological pressure, its consequences and its impact on mental health and their answers were as followed:

The survey started with asking them about the definition of the term "bullying" from their point of view?

Almost all of the answers stated that bullying is the process of making fun of a person in terms of (his illness, physical appearances, environment in which he grew up or his social background ... etc.). Some also said that it is simply the mockery of a person for being different than others.

Does bullying causes Psychological pressure even if it was done in a humorous way?

All students answered that it is inevitable for bullying to lead to psychological pressure even if it was only a joke, and also if it was repeated.

They were also asked about the type of psychological pressure that they each face?

The answers to this question varied from one student to another. Some students faced stress and pressure from college either from the work that they had to do or because this college was not the one that they wanted to attend in the first place. Some were due to family and social problems. However, one student gave us a different answer which was the fact that the pressure she faces is her fear of disappointing her parents.

How do you face stress?

The answers here were divided into two categories. Some students faced stress by being an introvert and isolating themselves from the world, other faced it by having some kind of escapism such as listening to music or hanging out with the people they love.

In your opinion can psychological pressure lead to mental health problems?

The students were all in agreement that sure psychological pressure can lead to mental health problems if it was continuous and the person going through that pressure surrender to it through not facing the pressure, stopped fighting it or getting rid of it. This would may in fact lead to aggressive tendencies and increase the need to be isolated from other people.

What is your definition of mental illness?

To this question we didn't find a specific and adequate answer. Which led us to deduce that unfortunately many people are unaware of the meaning of 'mental health' or when can a person be diagnosed with being mentally ill. However, some people answered that mental illness is worse than physical illness as it is an on-going internal pain that we cannot pinpoint its origin. Mental illness may present as a person's fear to deal with other people (not being shy) or as severe depression. What was really surprising that one of the students that answered that they didn't know what mental illness is, she admitted that she was in fact diagnosed by the doctors as a patient of mental illness and she was even admitted in psychiatric hospital.

From your own perspective when does mental illness lead to suicide?

All of the students have agreed that mental illness can lead to suicide however their reasons varied, some of the reasons were the presence of despair, weak faith and the inability to cope with the illness and the surrounding environment.

Finally, we ended our survey with this question: in your opinion can a person who suffers from psychological stress visit a psychiatrist?

Most of the students answered that of course they should visit a psychiatrist because it is the solution to his illness and no one can help him except an expert despite the refusal of the customs and society to the idea. However, others replied with rejection to the idea of a psychiatrist.





# FEPS GRADUATION DAY

Celebrating 2019 graduates, 1969 class golden jubilee, 1994 Silver Jubilee

**Cairo : Omar Alaa**

On 5 Dec The Faculty of Economics and Political Science Cairo University held its annual graduation ceremony, and celebrated with three batches, the class of 2019, and the silver jubilee the batch of 1994 for celebrating the 25th anniversary of its graduation., the golden jubilee the batch of 1969 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its graduation.

This ceremony regards as a tradition that FEPS has been doing since 1992, Event was organized by Student union of FEPS, that earned the favour of the attenders who praised the quality of the organization.

The ceremony began with taking a collective photos for each batch, on front of Feps building, Then all batches and academic staff and organizers went to the main hall of Cairo university, with the march of graduates accompanied by military music, led by faculty dean Mahmoud El-Said, ,And Dr. Hanan Mohamedd Ali the Deputy Dean for Education and Student Affairs,

And accompanied with public figures like Ambassador Mohamed Al-Orabi, ex-former Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the faculty Council, and political writer Ahmed Al-Muslimani, ex-former adviser to the President of the Republic and member of the faculty Council, and Ambassador Adel El-Meligy, President of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science Alumni Association.

In the opening words in the main celebration hall of Cairo University, Dr. Hanan Muhammad Ali, Vice-President of the College, expressed his pride in the excellence of the college and the continuity of its generations,

which was also confirmed by Ambassador Adel Al-Meliji, President of the Alumni Association, then Dr. Mahmoud Al-Saod confirmed Dr. Mahmoud El-Said, the dean of the faculty expressed his pride for the three batches, and praised their achievements in practical life, which a reason for making FEPS one of most prestigious Faculties in Egypt and Middle East.

which was also confirmed by Ambassador Adel Al-Meliji, President of the Alumni Association, On behalf of 2019, batch Marina Hisham Ibrahim the top ranked student in her batch, economics department, French section gave an emotional speech, and expressed how the joining to FEPS affect her life, then thanked academic staff for their effort, and her colleagues,

Then Dr. Hala Sultan Abu Ali, a member of the House of Representatives, gave the speech on behalf of her batch 1994, and on behalf of 1969 batch, Dr. Ahmed Youssef Ahmed delivered the speech was met with loud applause, For his academic contribution in political science, which enrich political science in both Egypt and Arab world.

FEPS also honored post-graduate degree holders (master & PhD), And Some Literary events occurred in ceremony such as poetry was said by Aya salah & ahmed azhary who students in FEPS. The activities of ceremony accompanied with represent a video power by quality team of faculty.

It is noteworthy that the celebration of the graduates' day included the three departments of each batch, political science, economics and statistics, and the three sections in the faculty, which are Arabic, English and French.

## CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS' WELL-BEING JOINT CONFERENCE; A PRODUCT OF A FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FEPS AND UNICEF

Cairo : Fareeda Khalifa, Habiba Atef, Farah Haitham, Hana Zakareyya and Yasmin Tarek



*Photo for Mr. Bruno Maes (right) Unicef Representative in Egypt and Professor Mahmoud El Said FEPS Dean*

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud El Said started the opening speech of FEPS-UNICEF joint conference. Dr. Mahmoud declared that this conference is a significant outcome of a comprehensive partnership between FEPS and UNICEF. The partnership, which was launched in November 2018, aims to enhance coordination in the field of knowledge production, knowledge dissemination, and capacity building in a number of areas of common interests such as social protection, inclusion, health, nutrition and child protection as well as public finance. Then he added that, a call for paper was declared last February targeting three main categories of researchers (undergraduate students in their 4th year, postgraduate candidates, researchers and professor affiliated to FEPS) to participate in the policy making process and the evident based solution that can improve children and adolescent well-being. Finally, he said that a scientific committee from FEPS and UNICEF reviewed all the papers carefully and chooses the best paper from each category.

Mr. Bruno Maes, UNICEF's Representative in Egypt built upon Dr. Mahmoud's speech and continued to welcome the attendees. He inaugurated the conference and stressed that it is the result of more than a year of hard work and partnership from both FEPS and UNICEF, along with the researchers once the call for papers was opened. He said that UNICEF values its partnership with FEPS as it is critical to engage young people as agents of change, and would like to achieve their full potential in alignment with the goals of 2030's national development strategy and UNPDF 2018-2022. He said that the challenges faced by the Egyptian government are numerous, yet there are efforts and research done by the Egyptian academia to help plan ahead and disseminate knowledge, which UNICEF aims to support. He emphasized the importance of partnerships between governments and intergovernmental organizations on one hand, and long-standing academic institutions on the other hand, in order to reach more child-sensitive policies and leave a legacy of advocacy for children's rights. He renewed UNICEF's commitment and support to the Egyptian government in its efforts for children and highlighted that no child is left behind.

The first session was titled "Children's Well-being and Malnutrition in Egypt" and was chaired by Professor Dr. Heba Nassar, former vice president of community service at Cairo University. The talk started with Dr. Heba expressing her gratitude to be part of such a great event like the cooperation of FEPS and the UNICEF, moreover, congratulating the participants on their respectful accomplishments. She then presented the first paper by Dr. Racha Ramadan (associate professor, FEPS) and Ms. Sarah Wahby (senior research associate J-PAL) titled "Gender Norms and Children Malnutrition in Egypt and Jordan."

As gender norms play a crucial role in children's nutrition status, especially in patriarchal societies with culture of son preference as the Arab region, therefore, the current paper investigates the relationship between gender and nutritional outcomes through different angles. The paper studies the impact of sex of the child, sex of the head, mother's characteristics and gender norms in the community where the child lives on three nutritional outcomes; stunted, wasted and being underweight, using Demographic and Health surveys for Egypt (2014) and Jordan (2012). Consequently, the paper conveys three main messages: The first one is that mothers play a significant role in their children nutritional status. Second, gender norms and social context matters in Jordan. Lastly, being stunted, wasted, or underweight have different determinants that vary from country to another. So, policy makers have to tackle each Malnutrition outcome separately to decrease their prevalence, taking into consideration the social context for each country.

The discussant was Dr. Omnia Helmy (vice dean for graduate studies, FEPS). She first congratulated Dr. Racha and Ms. Sarah on their paper. Then she commented several comments concerning the paper as a general and specific pages. The most highlighted comment was that she thought that the surveys where at a long period ago and that the later period on these surveys witnessed several developments and changes that might have affected the results of the surveys.



As for the second paper in this session, it was titled "A Closer Look into the School Feeding Programs in Egypt" which was coauthored by four fresh graduates from FEPS; Ms. Enas Hamdi Farag, Ms. Mira Hany Sorial, Ms. Nour El Eishy, and Ms. Yomna El Wakeel. During the presentation, they introduced what the School Feeding Programs (SPF) are and how long they have been in place in Egypt. They also discussed the relevance of this issue to economics, along with its impact on education and link to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Vision 2030. The researchers tackled this due to a belief that there is a gap in the literature concerning this issue. They looked closely into the three different providers of the SPFs; which are the Ministry of Education, the World Food Program, and the Egyptian Food Bank, and examined how different they are when it comes to budgets and implementation. They also took a case study of Brazil as a successful model and suggested some policy recommendations and limitations.

The discussant was Mr. Moataz Saleh, a Child Survival Officer at UNICEF who also held positions at the Ministry of Health. He mainly commented on the impact of confounding factors on this analysis, and added that a major limitation to this study was that the researchers only interviewed officials rather than beneficiaries of such services. Mr. Moataz also noted that with regards to academic papers, sometimes it is hard to operationalize and implement them into real life concepts in order to derive sound and suitable policies.

After the break, the second session was chaired by Dr. Omneia Helmy, Vice Dean for Graduate Studies, FEPS, Cairo University, under the title "The Effect of Gender Disparities on Children and Adolescents' Well-being." The paper titled "Measuring Youth Multidimensional Poverty in Egypt: Geographical & Gender Disparities" was done by; Dr. Hanan Nazier, Associate Professor of FEPS and Dr. Asmaa Ezzat, Assistant Professor of FEPS.

The paper highlighted multidimensional poverty levels for Youth in Egypt dividing it upon changes across regions and by gender. Dr. Hanan began her research claiming that in 2018, there are 8% of the world's population was living under poverty, 95% of those population was in developing countries. However, she argued that the definition of poverty ignored some socio-economic aspects of poverty such as; the inability to be healthy, well-marched and educated. Moreover, she added that the paper discussed two advanced multidimensional poverty dimensions that didn't exist earlier in studies for Egypt which was mainly; economic opportunities, access to information technology and NEETS. The paper uses well-known methodologies to cover its research which is; Alkaline and Foster (2011) method of multidimensional poverty index (MPI) to calculate a Youth Multidimensional poverty index (YMPI). More important, Dr. Hanan concluded in her studies that young females were multidimensional poor than young males as well as highlighting that there were geographical differences in her analysis where the rural areas ranked the highest levels of multidimensional poverty.

The paper discussant was Dr. Pierluigi Ragno, Chief, Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation, UNICEF Egypt. He expressed his gratitude for such study saying that it discusses two important aspects for UNICEF Egypt which are; focusing on Youth and highlighting that youth are game changers in any countries' policy. He added that the methodology is well accepted throughout the paper and suggested that they might use how Youth contribute in GDP growth to add a stronger case in the paper.

The second paper was entitled "Role of Women Empowerment on Child Development through Microfinance. Case Study: Egypt." The paper was developed by economic graduates, FEPS, Cairo University; Ms. Enas Emad Hussein, Ms. Nourhan Salah El-deen and Ms. Nourhan Hassan. The discussant of the paper was Prof. Dr. Heba Nassar. The research aims to study

the effect of access to micro-finance such as micro-loans, ROSCA and savings on women empowerment through access to education and labor force and measuring the impact on child's health, education, labor and marriage.

Doctor Heba Nassar gave them a feedback after the paper was discussed. She started off by thanking them for their effort and studying such an important subject. She then proceeded to mention some of the comments, she felt like the focus of the paper got lost during the process of writing the research because they were trying to deliver as much information as they can which led to them mentioning many subjects that weren't correlated. She then moved on to mention some general notes on how to structure the research paper for example there shouldn't be an introduction for each chapter and when adding a table or a graph there should be a heading and a resource. Finally, she ended her comments with motivating them as this was their first trial, she advised them to be more focus on their topic and choice of indicators in the future.

The third session was titled "Children's Well-being from an institutional perspective" and chaired by Professor Dr. Adla Ragab, Director of CEFRS at FEPS. During this session two papers were discussed. The first paper "Improving Effectiveness of the Child-at-Risk protection System in Egypt: A Fiscal and Institutional Perspective" was developed by Prof. Dr. Khalid Zakaria Amin, Professor at FEPS, Dr. Israa El Hussein, Associate Professor at FEPS, and Ms. Amira Gamal El-Din a researcher at AASTMT. The Social Policy Specialist at UNICEF Egypt Marisa Foraci was the discussant of this paper.

The paper was focusing on the current situation of child-at-risk protection system in Egypt, its limitations and the ways to improve it. The conclusion of the paper was suggesting two institutional approaches (administrative and technical) to enhance the current situation of weak institutional set up in Egypt which might eventually reflects on improving child status in Egypt.

For the comments on the paper, Marisa Foraci suggested that the paper should be more economic convincing. Since the paper lacks economic figures as the economic cost of violence in terms of GDP and the estimated cost of implement the two approaches proposed at the end of the paper plus the amount of children will be protected.

The second paper, "Children as Active Citizens: The Case of Egypt" was prepared by Ms. Nevine Donia, a PhD candidate at FEPS. This paper's discussion was held by Ms. Sara Eid, Head of the Fiscal Transparency and Citizen Engagement Unit at the Egyptian Ministry of Finance. This research paper highlights the problems facing the implementation of life skills and citizenship education approach. The author argues that as long as children are educated as active citizens, Egypt shall progress in its democratization process.

Dr. Adla commented about how important this topic is saying "children issues are very important as they are not the future, I think they are the present". Ms. Sara Eid then continued the discussion by emphasizing how children issues are important and how they have become a national need within our 2030 vision. She then proceeded to mention some comments she had on the paper for instance, she really liked the consultation of the children however she thought that the author should emphasize more on the children being active citizens through education and how important it is. Ms. Sara mentioned a saying "either you seed or you concede" which enhances her point about the significance on education especially active learning at home and school. She then spoke about new methods about new methods of active learning that is applied in Scotland, some schools hold events for the students and their parents in order to provide them with a practical way to be citizens but in a small environment as they have their fair share in participating in making choices related to the school. This leads to the building of the feeling of belonging. She also hopes this will be applied here in Egypt as interactive learning is something that is considered a priority in the 2030 agenda.

At the end of the conference, awards were announced in each category; students, graduates, and researchers or professors associated with FEPS. In the students' category, the winning paper was "A Closer Look into the School Feeding Programs in Egypt" whose coauthors were awarded a three months paid internship at UNICEF's office in Egypt. As for the postgraduates, "Children As Active Citizens" won the best paper and an award of \$500. Within the researchers and professors category, "Gender Norms and Children Malnutrition in Egypt and Jordan" claimed the first spot and won an award of \$500 to contribute to the publication fees. Dr. Mona Essam, the FEPS-UNICEF coordinator concluded the conference with the awards ceremony and presenting awards to the organizing committee; and Dr. Mona was praised by many speakers, chairs, and discussant for being one of the main pillars in this partnership and was called 'the hidden warrior.'





## “Faculty of Economics and Political Science Organizes the annual employment fair in its twenty-first version”

Covered by - Mariam Hefny

Under the shades of Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and under the guidance of the President of the University, Dr. Muhammad Othman Al-Khosht, and Dr. Mahmoud Al-Saeed, Dean of the College, the faculty organized the annual Employment Fair in its twenty-first version on Thursday, 12.12.2019 with the participation of 25 governmental and private institutions, which continued From ten in the morning until five in the evening at the faculty.

A number of institutions, organizations and banks participated in the fair, including the National Bank of Egypt, Bank of Egypt, Nasser Social Bank, Arab Bank and Commercial International Bank. In addition to the Information and Decision Support Center, the Central Agency for Organization and Administration and Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, and ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring, and Administrative Reform, and other contributing companies and institutions.

Dr. Muhammad Othman Al-Khosht said that the annual employment and training fairs organized by the different faculties of Cairo University aim to invite companies, institutions and businessmen to study the extent of the labor market needs of university students and graduates, and offer and provide job opportunities and training for them through specialized workshops, which contributes to supporting the skills of students, as well as raising the capabilities of graduates, assisting in their employment, and gaining new skills that qualify them to join the labor market.

Dr. Mahmoud Al-Saeed, the dean of the faculty expressed that the annual employment fair organized by the faculty is one of the distinguished activities of the faculty, and aims to guide the college students to the labor market by inviting employment agencies from various institutions including organizations, ministries and banks, based on the important role that the faculty plays to link Graduates with the labor market, so that its role is not limited to academic education and qualification only.

On the sidelines of the fair's activities included an introductory lecture on the banking sector, given by Ahmed Issa, CEO of the retail banking at the International Commercial Bank CIB, during which he talked about the role of banks in the national economy, and the working conditions in the banking sector and the most prominent qualifications and job requirements that a student needs to join work in the sector.

It also included a lecture on how to build your career path given by Mr. Mohamed Hammouda from Faisal Islamic Bank, where both witnessed a great number of students and graduates attending them.





Dr. Shahinaz Gamal on the Employment Fair

## ACADEMIC STUDY IS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT TO COMPETE IN THE JOB MARKET

Cairo : Carolin sherief and Nermin Tawfik

Dr. Shahinaz Gamal, FEPS assistant professor of cybernetics and head of FEPS IT unit, spoke to ELITE about the Employment fair in its 11th version which Gamal played a pivotal role in organizing, pointing out that the fair's success is a product of a group effort, not individuals, as preparations for the fair were made long before the start of the fair. Registration for the fair was electronic, and leadership development centers were contacted to help young people prepare their resumes appropriately.

As for the participants, there were 25 entities attending, in addition to other entities which took part in previous versions of the fair. University departments and students were contacted to know what kind of entities that would like to see in the fair. Banks were the most prominent participants, and there were entities that attended for the first time in this fair, like Al-Masry Al-Youm newspaper, Misr Travel Company. Furthermore, we facilitated the procedures for those who wanted to participate.



Dr. Shahinaz added that 600 students took part in the fair, which is a big number. Panel discussions on the job market were held on the sideline, moderated by managers from Faisal Islamic Bank and CIB Bank.

Shahinaz continued by saying that since the fair concluded its work, we contacted the participating entities to know their feedback on the students' resumes, training and employment opportunities which these entities promised. If new information come in, we will publish them on the fair's Facebook page. And we didn't only contact entities that participated in the fair, but we also contacted other employers that didn't have time to participate, such as the Ministry of Public Business Sector which wanted to recruit some graduates. Dr. Shahinaz further stated that opportunities are not limited to training, but there are employers that want to recruit graduates. Our graduates need to know this piece of information, because we don't want participation in the fair to be limited to students, we want graduates to be included too.

Dr. Shahinaz concluded by advising students to develop their skills so that they can join the job market, as academic study alone is no longer enough for competition. Therefore, students must develop their language, technology and communications skills, because the current job market requires students to further develop themselves, as supply exceeds demand. Thus, the most qualified will have a better chance getting a job.





# IRAQI PROTESTS: A POLITICAL SYSTEM DEADLOCK

**Dr. Haidar Muthana** , Researcher at The Iraqi House of Representatives

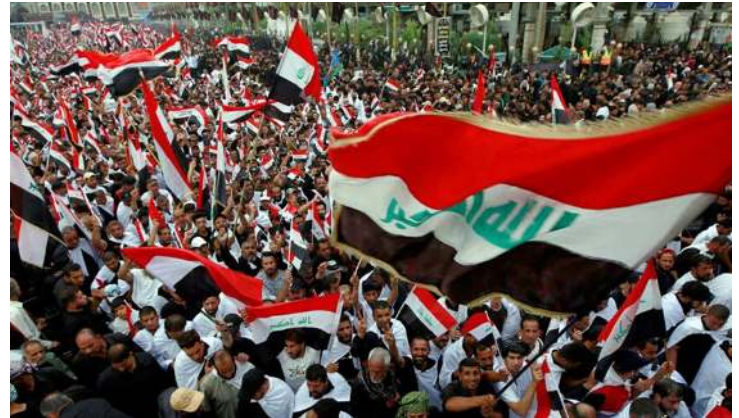
translated by: Asmaa Elsafty, revised by: Dina Ehab

Nowadays Iraq is witnessing a state of popular boiling(anger) and demonstrations that have been going on since 1/10/2019, but the way to confront these demonstrations, which were punctuated by many instances of violence without achieving all the demands, which led to the expansion of its scope and the escalation of the demands ceiling from the service to the dismissal of the government and parliament and the rejection of the parties Political process, to change the Electoral Commission and conduct early elections under the supervision of the nation or the common wealth, change the election law and amend the age for running for parliamentary elections, leading to the rejection of the entire political process.

Although the demonstrators raising the slogan of (peaceful demonstrations) and their refusal to use violence, the levels of violence practiced against them by the security services and armed militias portend the seriousness of the situation that could lead to armed confrontations between the two sides, especially after the death of more than (640) demonstrators and ( 17) One thousand wounded, and here the three authorities began to take several steps to address these demonstrations, which was the formation of committees by the Council of Ministers to meet the demonstrators and know their demands, as it worked on launching (5) reform packages, while the House of Representatives, which was supportive and involved in the demonstrations, was also adopting a reform package , and also the power of a Judicial, which began to solve many of delayed cases, either the most prominent demands of the demonstrators, were represented in the following:

1. Service demands: provide public services in residential areas, provide housing units, end the problem of electricity and water, provide employment opportunities, and improve the health sector.
2. Economic demands: activate the industrial, agricultural, and investment sectors.
3. Political demands: ending Iranian influence, getting rid of corruption, amending the constitution, ending sectarian quotas, separating religion from politics, abolishing provincial councils and moving towards full independence.

In the same context, the demonstrators expressed their desire to nominate an independent prime minister who would be from outside the personalities and parties participating in the political process that was established in 2003 till now, and this is because of lack of confidence in them, which put the Iraqi political currents in an unenviable position.



However, the remarkable thing is that the new generation who is leading the demonstrations has begun to establish a culture far from the sectarian, ethnic and racial divide that had prevailed in Iraq after the American occupation, and had caused embarrassment to the Islamic political stream that had been leading the political process after the year 2003, which posed a real threat to its gains. Although The government had resigned, this did not lead to calm in the Iraqi street as the sit-ins and demonstrations are continuing, in addition to the student strike, which entered its eighth week, aiming at this to change the entire political process, all the way to get rid of the Iranian influence and interference mainly. The unified slogan for the demonstrators in all the sit-down squares of the governorates is (We want a homeland), which refers to the change of attitudes of the Iraqi people's opinion towards building a homeland without sects, nationalities and divisions that will achieve their dreams of a decent life and achieve development for all sectors.







**Basant  
Ahmed**  
4th year,  
political  
science

# Pysche of Suicide

What comes to your mind when you hear the news of someone's suicide? Who is that person, his identity, his family, his personal life, right? More importantly his motives, what are the reasons that led him to suicide?

Only common and repeated questions, they only satisfy the temporary curiosity after the event, but in general there is inmost question that leads us to a deeper analysis and a more comprehensive understanding of this frequent phenomenon so that we can analyze it or provide an explanation at least reduces its ambiguity.

I focus on perception of the suicidal idea itself "suicide" itself which refers to a person's decision to end his life by beating him at a certain time and in a certain way I wonder, does the suicide attempters have a dedicated philosophy that appears when he decides to settle the matter and end his life? Literally we have to realize that there is a certain psychology and philosophy of suicide which leads the person to take a step like that which is reflected even on the tools and method of suicide that differ from case to another . Many philosophies. Specially moral philosophy have talked about the topic of suicide, and many philosophers have spoken since Plato and through Nietzsche and Kaumi to Thomas Joiner, who presented a completely model summarizing the psychology of suicide.

So we find Plato for example has seen that we are prisoners of our bodies and we have no right to free ourselves By ourselves because this contradicts what we were created for, and he excluded many things after that, but it is that philosophy that separated two types of instincts are the instinct to stay or and the instinct of death, The last is that it establishes no doubt truth, while the other is what makes live and live, that the human being is not allowed to live and continue until death himself stops him, so the person chooses to cut that continuation forever in the ways that are in Mostly psychologically harmful, very painful physically is what is inconsistent with that instinct, which makes us scrutinize the existence of a continuous imbalance that makes us believe that the suicide attempter only wanted to end his life while all he wanted was to end his pain! Before the suicidal person took that tragic step he had suffered extremely.

It's not necessary to assert or attach his decision to depression, it is about this person has lost his full sense of things, life has become darkening blackness for him, he is in the tour of realizing what causes him pain only, so he does not realize any meaning or significance for his survival on the face of the earth longer. This is what we find clearly when we try to analyze the last written messages of anyone from suicides, they almost share in confirming and asserting the existence of a specific psychology in which this action is based, which is "the anti-pain psychology" getting out from a feeling of loneliness, negligence and the decided psychology that choose to end all of that.





# ADVERTISING AGENCIES AND EGYPTIAN FOOTBALL MARKET

Omar Khaled  
Fourth Year, Economics



Advertising agencies have greatly affected Egyptian football, and clubs are currently achieving high returns that contribute to raising the level of the game and competitions, and creating another case of competition between fans off the field, and away from the results achieved by their teams, as they boast the number of sponsors that their clubs have. But the talk here will touch on the largest sponsorships for the Egyptian ball during the last two decades: Al-Ahram and Presentation, the Al-Ahram and its control until the revolution, and the spread of many problems later, and Presentation, which quickly escalated the missile with huge capital and a strange force that made it the sole monopolist of sport in Egypt, whether in sponsoring clubs or even in satellite broadcasting, there are many questions revolving around this company and its source of strength. Initially speaking about the Al-Ahram agency that sponsored the Egyptian football for a long time until 2011, the Al-Ahram agency was responsible for the rights to sponsor the Football and Clubs Association, led by Al-Ahly, Zamalek and Ismaili, but the agency was subjected to numerous accusations, including bias towards the Al-Ahly Club, given that the head of the agency was "Hassan Hamdi", head of Al-Ahly Club, and the "Corruption of Alahram case.

The accusations were public and express to the agency by changing the path of many stars to Al-Ahly by way of promises that guarantee them a great income in addition to the millions that they receive from Al-Ahly. The traditional club Zamalek in welfare rights. But in an interview with "Hisham Zayed", director of sports marketing for Al-Ahram, he responded to these allegations, saying: I constantly read that the agency is helping the Al-Ahly club in its contracts with the players, and that the advertising contract is the one that is most likely to be signed by Al-Ahly, and to confirm that the agency has not signed an advertising contract with a player throughout its history, and we have not brought any advertisements to any player in Al-Ahly, contrary to what is published. Whoever has a contract, let him show it, and the contract between us and Al-Ahly stipulates that we use 6 players annually for advertising, and even this item has not been exploited. The real problem is that some people perceive that Al-Ahly and Al-Ahram Agency are one entity because of Hassan Hamdi.

With the start of the return of auctions to the sponsorship of the Egyptian Football Association, the Presentation Company started to appear through its offer of 140 million pounds, which is much greater than the last decade between the Federation and the agency (40 million pounds). From here, the "Company" began with a rocket speed that climbs into the sports market. Egyptian, the company has monopolies, and huge offers that amount to hundreds of millions to buy broadcasting rights, the company offers Al-Ahly to pay its debts in order for Al-Ahly satellite channel to continue broadcasting, and the company defeats the Egyptian TV show to obtain the right to broadcast the Egyptian League (2015-2016). As it becomes effective in the results of the Egyptian league. After I offered players and rewards, upon winning. But the company raised many questions about it, with the huge capital that it moves in, and its very organized steps to monopolize many aspects of the Egyptian sports market, where the Egyptian newspaper "Al-Ahram Sports" published in July 2014 what stipulated that there are many stories that are told from the mysterious company and its rocket rise in the sporting atmosphere, buying TV broadcasts and sponsorship without clear bids or competitions from other companies in earnest, as all companies and agencies announce withdrawal before them, but that the largest agencies in Egypt will not continue before them in any bidding, which made some confirm that the company is backed by the reaction of the characters we do not know, and Egyptian officials have things sports facilitators.

Most of the tournaments held in Egypt since 2014, according to Al-Ahram Al-Riyadi, testify that the company is clearly trying to control the Football Association, by obtaining its own sponsorship rights, after it submitted individually a financial offer, and forced all companies to withdraw, even those that bidding enters to legalize them only, and Presentation alone is the player in the Egyptian sports market. Despite this clear monopoly from the Presentation Company of the Egyptian ball, it has played a distinguished role in the Egyptian football, whether in developing the league competition or even hosting sporting events, the most recent of which is the African Nations Cup for adults and youth, but that suspicious control raises questions about who supports this company and who provides funding for it.



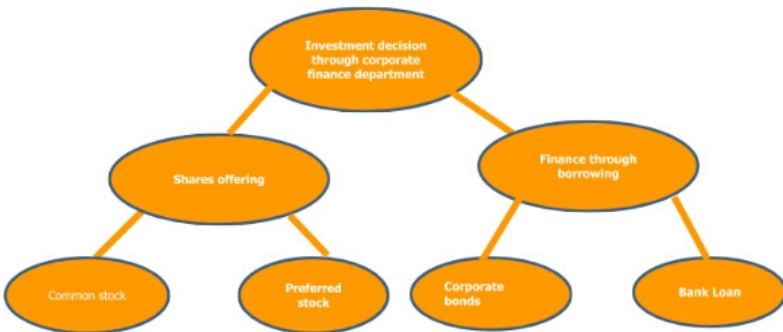


# SHORT SELLING IN STOCK EXCHANGE



Mohamed Fawzy, Third Level , Economics

As we know, one of the most important elements of GDP growth is investment. The investment comes primarily through a decision by the Corporate Finance Department to finance the company by borrowing or offering shares. The company offers shares in the Egyptian Stock Exchange to raise the capital, and shareholders expect profits to be distributed at the end of the period. Later, those shares will be traded in the stock exchange with the aim of transferring ownership of the capital and achieving profits from those transactions in the event of improved company performance.



### Short-Selling definition:

Short selling occurs when an investor borrows a security (with a certain interest rate borrowing), and sells it on the open market, planning to buy it back later for less money. Short sellers bet on, and profit from, a drop in a security's price. It can be simplified in these 4 steps:

- 1) The client borrows the shares, which he expects to decrease in the future in exchange for a specific interest, and undertakes to recover the borrowed shares within a specified period.
- 2) The borrower sells shares at the old price before it decreases.
- 3) He then buys the shares sold again at a lower price.
- 4) Finally profits are achieved through the difference between the price of buying shares and the price of selling them



### Practical Example on Short-Selling



As illustrated above, the two lines follow the same trend. We note that the decline in the Egyptian market index or the increase in the fluctuations occurs three months after the decline or rise in the emerging market index. For example, the Emerging Markets Index reached the highest peak as shown next to the red arrow, and by knowing this information, the investor expects the Egyptian market index to reach the peak after two or three months as shown next to the red arrow. This information can be used to buy shares at the highest peak next to the red arrow and sell them at the lowest trough next to the green achieving profits by the difference in the price of buying and selling

### How did Egypt receive the short-selling?

The financial regulatory authority granted 51 local brokerages out of a total of 140 companies, a license to practice short selling activities. However, some complaints were found concerning the high price of the electronic operating system, which reached \$ 9,500. The Egyptian Stock Exchange administration negotiated with technology companies to reach lower prices and succeeded in finding the price of 3,900 dollars, and \$2000 after further negotiations.

Furthermore, the short selling mechanism was only granted 30 indexes. The Egyptian Stock Exchange indicator was expected to recover after the decision to implement the mechanism. What happened, in contrary, was a drop in the main index. In my opinion, it is a good mechanism, but few know how to benefit from it due to the high risk. Because of that, the Stock Exchange worked on educating brokerage companies about the new operating method. However, in my opinion, the Stock Exchange should work to educate investors and citizens of the mechanism encouraging to invest in the Egyptian Stock Exchange and achieve its goal of recovery in all indicators.