

The Future in Dietetics and Nutrition

COURSE: CHAPTER 11

BOOK: CHAPTER 15

Introduction

❖ The future offers many challenges and opportunities for dietitians. Food and nutrition are gaining prime importance in the issues of health and wellness at no time in the past as there been so much interest in nutrition and food science. Dietetic professionals must “seize the moment” be ready to embrace the changes and challenges of the future.

❖ Challenges include:

1. Changing demographics

- ❖ **The Aging Population:** The rapidly increasing number of the elderly will shift the focus of health services from acute to chronic care.
- ❖ **Ethnic Diversity:** More diverse populations (consider food, culture, and language)
- ❖ **Accessibility to healthcare:** Growing poverty among some populations and high healthcare costs may reduce accessibility to healthcare. (*See next slide for Palestinian statistics*)
- ❖ **Mobility:** Increased moving into workforce and relocating of extended families. (*See next slides for Palestinian statistics*)

Poverty Rates in Palestine

Poverty Percentages Among Individuals in Palestine According to Monthly Consumption Patterns by Region, 2009-2011, 2017

Region	2009		2010		2011		2017	
	Poverty	Deep Poverty	Poverty	Deep Poverty	Poverty	Deep Poverty	Poverty	Deep Poverty
West Bank	19.4	9.1	18.3	8.8	17.8	7.8	13.9	5.8
Gaza Strip	38.3	21.9	38.0	23.0	38.8	21.1	53.0	33.8
Palestine	26.2	13.7	25.7	14.1	25.8	12.9	29.2	16.8

Source: Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics

Women in the Workforce - Palestine

Indicator	Year										
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Education											
(Literacy rate of Palestinian population (15 years and over)											
Male	97.2	97.1	97.4	97.6	97.9	98.2	98.4	98.4	98.5	98.6	98.3
Female	90.5	90.9	91.7	92.2	92.6	93.6	94.1	94.4	94.9	95.2	95.0
Labor Force											
Percentage of participated women in labor force	15.7	15.2	15.5	14.7	16.6	17.4	17.3	19.4	19.1	19.3	19.2
Percentage of participated men in labor force	67.7	66.8	67	66.8	68.7	69.1	69.3	71.5	71.9	71.6	71.6
Average daily wage in NIS for wage employees											
Male	84.1	90.6	94.2	94.6	94.2	94.8	101	105.7	107.8	113.7	119
Female	70.1	74.6	77	77.4	79.3	82.5	81.5	81.1	82.3	83.4	84.6

Source:
Palestine
Central
Bureau of
Statistics

3. Consumer Expectations & Technological Revolution

- ❖ A more affluent, better-educated consumer, with greater access to information, will place new demands on providers to ensure the best care
- ❖ Telecommunications innovations will be both beneficial and challenging for dietitians and consumers

Competencies needed in the future

- ❖ There is an urgency that as a profession, dietitians must continue to look closely at trends and identify skills most critical to successful practice.
- ❖ Regarding trends, we will discuss the following topics more closely:
 - Nutritional Genomics
 - Sustainable diets
 - Microbiome
 - Functional Foods
 - Genetically Modified Foods
 - Eating Psychology
- ❖ Regarding skills, see next slide

Competencies needed in the future

Competency	Explanation
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- See new opportunities- Create new opportunities
Professional & Organizational Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understand mission, vision, and goals of dietetics- Link food & nutrition interventions to overall health
Problem-definition and problem-solving skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify gap of where a situation is and how it should be- Help others to see how to fill the gap
General business skills	Know the economics, marketing, finance, accounting of this business
Team building & interpersonal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Team building skills- Strong communication skills
Entrepreneurialism	See new opportunities, challenge traditional roles, and be a risk taker
Multicultural, multiversity competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Having openness to other cultural values- Apply a global perspective to clients and employees

Opportunities you can take advantage of at Birzeit University

1. Najjad Zeenni IT Center of Excellence: <https://www.facebook.com/ITCenterOfExcellence/>
2. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit: <https://www.facebook.com/acsbzu/>
3. Center for Continuing Education - Birzeit University: <https://www.facebook.com/Center-for-Continuing-Education-Birzeit-University-1465656540392145/>

Online opportunities for additional courses:

1. <https://www.coursera.org/>
2. <https://www.udemy.com/>