Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 13:15
Department of Man in the Desert Seminar Room

ES Seminar

Hashem Sayed, MA Proposal presentation

Abstract - This study proposed to document the Sense of Place (SoP) of Bedouin schoolchildren in unrecognized villages in the Negev, taking Ovdat Elementary School (OES) as a case study. I will use the concept of a SoP to examine the children's and their parent's attitudes toward their environment traveling from and to school, despite poverty, lack of services, degraded infrastructure, the IDF firing zones and military bases nearby, and floods in winter. One of the hypotheses of the research is how the nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle of the community defines their SoP. The primary findings of the study support the hypothesis that the concept of SoP plays a key role in success and happiness among the indigenous Negev Bedouin which influences school travel mode. Additionally, the relationship between people and places may create a good education atmosphere.

The research will implement qualitative research methods. Meetings and interviews will be conducted on the experience of Bedouin pupils' attitude within their families and their relations with the Ovdat school staff. Moreover, observations will be made regarding the educational atmosphere in the school. Finally, findings of the research will contribute to the improvement of school transportation quality. Accordingly, this project will address elements and a structure that is being proposed elaborated for local governments, especially to Ministry of Interior. Also, this research will contribute to the acceleration and discussion between the community and the authorities aiming at the recognition of Ovdat Bedouin town and others.

Joshua Inkeles, MA Thesis presentation

"Necessities, obstacles, and parameters of greywater treatment in informal Bedouin villages"

Abstract – This research aims to ascertain the feasibility of decentralized wastewater treatment, with a focus on greywater, in Negev Bedouin villages. The impetus for this is the ongoing lack of formal infrastructure in Bedouin villages, whether recognized by the government or not. Given the glacial pace of integrating villages into Israel's public institutions, the goal is to seek out viable alternatives to curbing unregulated water disposal even as land rights remain unrecognized. Greywater (domestic effluent containing no fecal matter) treatment was forwarded as a potential option that can safely repurpose the majority of water waste for irrigation.

Using the recognized, but still informal village of Um Bat'in as a case study, several factors related to wastewater disposal were analyzed. This analysis was tripartite, firstly dealing with physical/chemical parameters of both water supply and water disposal in order to estimate necessary water treatment level. Secondly the site was

spatially analyzed to understand water flow in the event that wastewater must be collected for sewerage. Cartographic data was also used to find whether space was available in the village as well as potential sites for treatment systems. Lastly interviews have been conducted with both residents and outside experts on environmental priorities and concerns of Bedouin in informal settlements as well as what is vital to improving sanitation, whether locally, by NGOs or the state. This part of the research is still ongoing.

Though findings are still coming in, current results suggest the potential for installing constructed wetlands onsite near individual households or extended families. How fecal matter containing blackwater is still to be seen, though no less vital due to the detected presence of antibiotic resistant bacteria. Less resolved, however, are social and political matters due to a low concern of water sanitation compared to other issues, the need for sanitation knowledge to disseminate through the village, and the likely justified sense that the state will not act in any way to improve the situation.