

The first Educational meeting for literacy education in Diwania governorate.

On Monday the 19th of February 2007, IAA in coordination with the Department of Education in Diwania governorate, the 1st literacy education meeting was held under the slogan (Building a developed programme for literacy in particular, and for general educational process). The even was attended by the Director of Education Department in Diwania and Najaf governorates, nearly 135 educational experts including professors of Qadisiya University in Diwania, Department of Education supervisors, directors of educational Institutions of Diwania districts, educational Instructors, teachers from both genders, the educational cadre of Literacy Challenge program (held by IAA during 2006 in Najaf and Diwania) and literacy Challenge Programme manager of Karbala'a governorate. The meeting was arranged at the teachers' preparatory institute-Dr. Abd Aljabar Sharara hall in Diwania.

Mr. Salman Bakir, Director General of Educational Department in Diwania speech was on the current situation of educational circumstances in Iraq, and the influence of wars and the deteriorating economical situation on the educational field, such as suspensions of working hours, school drop outs especially amongst females which lead to the wide spread of illiteracy without any serious action taken, and the declination of the educational level. He also praised the educational activities of IAA which are very important these days wishing more success and continuity.

Ms. Nagham Kadhim Hamudy, representative of IAA in Najaf, introduced the educational program of IAA in Iraq, and literacy Challenge program, and encouraging women education, as 219 women and girls and 20 men ended the basic stage of literacy class which usually lasts 9 months, in many villages in Najaf and Diwania governorates. Mr. Hamza Kadhim the manager of the similar implemented programme in Karbala'a, briefed on IAA experience in starting 5 classes for literacy, where 130 students were listed in some villages, which will end hopefully next April. This educational experience is characterized by using the programme of the ministry of education in teaching elders, plus health, social and legal enlightenment lessons. Female beneficiaries are given sewing and other trades training for more than a month. IAA also assisted to qualify the drop out female students to re-take general exams at the intermediate and high school stages in Salah Aldeen governorate.

Topics that were raised during the meeting:

1. A comparison between the national literacy campaign during the seventies of the twentieth century with the current programmes and the role of civil society in implementing such programmes.
2. The civil society and the educational policy in Iraq.
3. Relation between teacher and student.

