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BETH JACOB

TEACHERS' SEMINARY FOR GIRLS

Address: Katamon, Jerusalem

Office in U.S.: There is no office in the U.S.; there is an active circle of friends

Date of latest visit: January 8, 1957

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Established - 1939.

Affiliation - Independent.

Studies are conducted in own building. Dormitory, kitchen and dining room are on the premises. The kitchen benefits from JDC feeding program.

B. STUDENTS

The registration period is in Elul (September).

Requirements for Admission

Graduates of elementary schools are eligible. The minimum age for admission is 14.

There are tuition fees.

There are 411 students.

Students are graduates of Elementary Beth Jacob or other schools. Students are of Ashkenazic and Sephardic origin. The length of the study course is from 5 to 6 years. Attendance is good. Maximum age for completion is 19 to 20.

Students are all between the ages of 14-20.

C. PROGRAM

This institution is a teachers' seminary for girls. Ideologically, it is identified with the Agudath Israel movement.

The curriculum is that of an officially recognized teachers' seminary, including sacred, secular and pedagogic subjects. There are 5 regular grades; the sixth is in the form of extension courses to prepare the students for teachers' license examination.

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The breakdown in classes is as follows:

First year (in three classes):

Class I	-	43
II	-	42
III	-	43

Second year (in three classes)

Class I	-	40
II	-	40
III	-	21

Third year (in two classes)

Class I	-	37
II	-	37

Fourth year (one class) - 49

Fifth year (one class) - 32

Sixth year (one class) - 26

Daily Schedule

Classes are scheduled from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Each period is of 50 minutes duration.

D. ADMINISTRATION & ORGANIZATION

The director of the Seminary is Rabbi Pinchas Levin; Dr. Meir Kovner, assistant director. Members of the Board of Directors are as follows: Rabbis Hillel Liberman, Moshe Porush, Benjamin Jacobson, Sh. Luria, Leo Jung (U.S.A.), Solomon Greenfield.

E. S T A F F

Faculty

There are 9 full-time teachers; 11 part-time teachers; 5 supervisors.

Administration

4 people are employed in the office; 6 in the dormitory and kitchen.

F. ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS

There are no cash grants to students. 66 live in the dormitory and receive all meals. Medical aid is carried by the school.

G. FINANCES

INCOME & EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 5715 -

INCOME

TOTAL INCOME

89,705.395

I. <u>Local Income</u>		71,445.520
Collections	8,188.100	
Tuition fees	51,568.880	
Government grants	6,946.840	
Youth Aliyah	-	
Irgun	3,400.-	
Municipalities	1,341.700	
Other	-	
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II. <u>Income from Abroad</u>		18,259.875
JDC	17,425.-	
Norman Fund	-	
Collections in U.S.A.	834.875	
Collections in other countries	-	
Other	-	
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EXPENDITURES

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

92,739.055

I. <u>Assistance to Students</u>		8,991.322
Foodstuffs	8,991.322	
Cash grants (Bachelor)	-	
Cash grants (Married)	-	
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II. <u>Salaries</u>		64,637.383
Teaching staff	53,590.973	
Maintenance staff	6,912.910	
Administration staff	4,133.500	
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III. <u>General Expenses</u>		19,110.350
Textbooks	384.505	
Administrative	8,177.878	
Building Maintenance	9,966.507	
Building	-	
Vocational training	581.460	
Welfare to other institutions	-	
Miscellaneous	-	
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Excess of EXPENDITURES over Income

3,033.660

(over)

H. EVALUATION

The Beth Jacob Teachers' Seminary for Girls was given the status of a Yeshivah several years ago. This is how the institution is included in the JDC program. The general spirit and the thoroughness with which some of the subjects are studied, bear a pronounced resemblance to a yeshivah. As an aside, it may be noted that Beth Jacob girls are the preferred brides for yeshivah students.

The school is well administered. The academic standard of the school is fairly high. The students are imbued with idealism and devotion to Judaism. Students feel distinguished as "Beth Jacob girls".

Since the establishment of the Seminary in 1939, 14 classes with a total number of 263 students were graduated;

133 were awarded Ministry of Education certificates as teachers;
130 did not receive certificates yet.

Most of the latter are teaching, nevertheless, as uncertificated teachers. Some are continuing courses to qualify for certificate examinations.

The course of study is officially set at 6 years, as required by the Ministry of Education. However, students are generally permitted to accept positions as teachers (mostly in Chinuch Atzmai), after 5 years of study. In the fifth year, students must pass inner examinations and some examinations given by the Ministry of Education. The 6th year is therefore not a continuation of the 5th year class. Students in the sixth class consist actually of graduates of previous years who wish to prepare themselves for final teachers' examination given by the Ministry of Education. This class is not too solidly organized.

Some of the following statistics are interesting: Of the 411 students registered 375 come from elementary Beth Jacob schools (Chinuch Atzmai); 36 come from government religious elementary schools; 309 are Israelis; 43 are from Moslem countries; 59 are from Eastern and Western Europe and America.

There are other Beth Jacob Seminaries in the country: In Tel Aviv, Bnei Brak, Petach Tikvah and Haifa. The one in Jerusalem is the largest. However, there really is no administrative or educational integration among the schools. They generally follow the same pattern although there are differences. The school in Bnei Brak, for example, does not permit its students to take Ministry of Education examinations, while the one in Jerusalem encourages it. Ideological identification is stimulated by occasional gatherings, celebrations and students' conclaves of all Beth Jacob Schools. However, dynamic planning, methodology, or text book research are not spurred or guided by a central body.

On the whole, the general modern approach, coupled with religious idealism, give the Beth Jacob Seminary of Jerusalem a distinguished place in the field of religious education in Israel.

Dr. Aaron Greenbaum

31st January, 1957.