

Arwa Oweis speaks about her GRACE research project on a 2-part radio interview on the station of the Irbid municipality.

In commenting on the interview, Jordanian research project leader Arwa Oweis noted:

The interview was valuable and the interviewer was enthusiastic about what I had to say. I had to think through the main points I wanted to emphasize and to get across especially as I was speaking about important issues that touch the lives of all women.

In relation to the purpose of my research, I emphasized in the interview the importance of helping women through the use of the different ICT tools to reach the point where they could begin to critique and analyze the different aspects of their lives, and discuss the how, and why they are responding to their environment in the ways they do. This is an important step toward our understanding of how we could begin the journey of change.

Through my research I gained an understanding of how when women have a safe, trusted space and opportunity to talk about and discuss their experiences and ideas, they were able to express themselves and share part of their lives that they would not normally share. The virtual space provided electronically allowed them to share and discuss different women's issues, to reflect on their daily conduct, their thoughts, emotions and feelings, their experiences, their perceptions and understandings of the social structure, their attitudes and practices toward their social roles, and how they react, interact, and respond on a daily bases. This has allowed women to discover and understand the dynamics of their their ways of engaging with their families, societies and themselves, and to identify how and what they want to change.

During the interview I wanted to say as much as possible about what I learned from researching women and what the experience meant to us. However, I found myself responding to questions as an advocate for women and their rights to live their lives free of judgment and criticism, and having the right to begin to contribute to the sustainable development of their country.

Finally I think that this interview was an example of using ICT as an empowering tool because for me this experience in itself was empowering.