

Script "The Never-Ending Journey"
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Lead-in: This audio feature explores the concept of lifelong learning through the stories of two AUC professors. It also gives the listeners insight into what is lifelong learning and how to be a lifelong learner.

MALAK ZAALOUK (MZ): "Education is life. I mean, it's it's actual. As long as you breathe, you're learning as long as you exist, you're learning. It's it's the totality of life ." (00:14)

That was Dr. Malak Zaalouk a professor of practice and the director at the Graduate School of Education at the American University in Cairo, and this is how she sees what is so-called "lifelong learning". If you came across this term before, you may think this piece is gonna be educational or boring but that's exactly what I am trying not to do. (00:22)

Music:FADE IN; Louis Hayes - If you Could See Me Now (7 sec from the start of the song)

MZ: "My family has been wonderfully supportive the family through which I learned a lot, because since a very young age, I grew up in a family that had the library." (00:14)

Nat Sound: flipping pages

Music: Louis Hayes - If you Could See Me Now (4 secs)

Her family didn't only inspire her to continue learning outside of school, but also to be an educator. She worked with UNICEF on a project that aimed to raise the education standards in a number of upper Egypt governorates such as Asiyut, Sohag and Qena. But then, it spread in all the governorates all the way to Matrouh in North Egypt. (00:23)

MZ: "it was one of my greatest prides is to create schools in the most underprivileged societies in Egypt and to offer the the underprivileged, the best quality of learning." (00:16)

Music: FADE IN; Louis Hayes - If you Could See Me Now (7 secs)

MZ: "I spent maybe 13 years of my life developing this model, having it grown to become a national mainstream project. And it was one of the projects that was also a global best practice." (00:15)

Dr. Malak isn't the only one, Jihan Osman, Assistant Professor at the graduate school of education also applied this concept in her life. (00:08)

Jihan Osman (JO): "By nature, I'm someone who likes learning Not necessarily being a student, but I love the idea of learning and I'm very curious person. So this was something that, not, my parents always encouraged since I was a very young child. So I regard myself as a lifelong learner to start with" (00:20)

We all come to a point where we need to be lifelong learners, although we may not be aware of the concept itself. It's the nature of the 21st century to be aware of what's new everyday. (00:11)

JO: "when I started after my PhD and when I started working, especially at A-U-C, I really realized the importance of lifelong learning in a more formal way. So I could see you know, that if I go to a conference, the issues that are discussed this year are very different from last year. And the issues that are last year are obsolete." (28:00)

Dr. Jihan school wasn't as supportive as d\Dr.malak's. But this also affected her life in a way. (00:06)

JO: "The majority of my schooling that was very boring and traditional. This was a strong influence in my life. I wanted to have better experiences I wanted others to have better experience." (0014)

So, she is like many of us. She didn't receive the education she wanted, but she looked at other places, like books, internet but most importantly is that she didn't wait for school to spoon-feed her. (00:11)

Nat sound: flipping pages

Nat sound: keyboard clicking

JO: "Well I mean, I was, I was reading a book that is pretty famous. That is by Stephen Covey The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. And, and the book had such very simple ideas but powerful ideas that are easy to understand the talked about that you are not a victim of your circumstances or your environment, but you have the power to, to choose how you react." (00:37)

These were the stories of two A-U-C professors who experienced lifelong learning in different ways. But it's not far away from any of us, there's a lot you can do to be like them. (00:12)

JO: "Experience that is by being open to taking more risks. being open to going out of your comfort zone by exploring, by having courage to be different. And although this is sometimes challenging, but the rewards are always very high." (00:17)

Music: Louis Hayes - If you Could See Me Now (5 secs)

This audio feature was produced by Monica Naguib for the Audio Production course at The American University in Cairo, taught by Professor Kim Fox in the Fall semester of 2019. Special thanks to Dr. Malak Zalouk and Dr. Jihan Osman. Music is "If you could see me now" by Louis Hayes, nat sounds from Zapsplat website. Thank you. (00:21)