



## **Dr. Emam Mohamed, Acting Chair of the English and Translation Department in Effaat College and WIT Program representative in Saudi Arabia**

"I believe that one succeeds by doing and delivering," says Dr. Emam Mohamed, who represents Women In Technology (WIT) in Saudi Arabia. "Choose good staff members who believe, like you, in the value of what you are doing, and then provide good training. Once this is done, the graduates themselves will be your marketing tool, and they will bring in others to get your good training."

This advice is an accurate summary of Mohamed's experience implementing WIT at Effat College, a renowned higher education institution for women in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

"Be patient," Mohamed says. "Believe in what you are doing and its benefit to the women in the community, and you will succeed."

### **Background**

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, in February 1967, Emam Mohamed was raised by her mother, who worked as an Arabic language instructor, and her father, an architect. She grew up with her twin brother and two sisters.

Mohamed was educated in her hometown, earning her BA in English Language and Literature at Alexandria University. After completing a one-year advanced degree from the University's Institute of Applied Linguistic Studies, Mohamed received a scholarship from the Overseas Development Association (ODA) and British council to pursue her Masters and later her PhD in Education and Applied Linguistics.

Since then, her work has given her extensive experience in teaching, teacher training, and development. She taught for 12 years at Alexandria University in their English for Specific Purposes ESP Center, and she taught community service courses in Teacher Training for English teachers. Later, she taught undergraduate courses in Alexandria University's English Department and at the Institute of Applied Linguistics.

In 2001-02, Mohamed became a country-wide trainer of trainers for the ESP Center. "This was a great opportunity for me," she says, "as it helped me train different current and prospective staff members in different places all over Egypt."

### **At Effat College**

As the main in-country representative for the WIT Program, Mohamed oversees the implementation of WIT at Effat College and at each of IIE's partner organizations in Saudi Arabia.

Mohamed's commitment and investment in WIT is evident when she



talks about the women who are trained through the program: "I believe that I am supporting fellow human beings. Women are eager to learn in this environment, and they deserve the chance to get quality training for reasonable fees.

"I feel happy when I hear that some women are getting better work opportunities now due to the training they have received," Mohamed says. "The professional development training is also an eye-opener to many students, to understand how they can better manage their life and self."

Since the WIT program was launched at Effat in 1996, 117 students have graduated from the IT Skills program. They are trained in classes of about 15 - 20 women each, in a computer lab rented from the college.

"We now have a long waiting list," Mohamed notes. One of her present challenges is to find the means to expand the program to accommodate more women.

### **Life Beyond WIT**

In addition to her work for WIT, Mohamed is an Assistant Professor in the English Department and Chair of the university's Extension Programs. Recently, she became Acting Chair of the English and Translation Department. Her daily responsibilities include teaching linguistics classes, overseeing various English department programs and Extension programs (including WIT), and meeting with staff members in these departments "to organize work and solve problems." Mohamed is also in direct contact with students "at all levels, to help them and support them in their different programs."

With her heavy and varied workload, Mohamed must be a diligent and efficient manager. "I delegate work to coordinators and oversee how they're doing in their programs, and I guide them and support them as much as possible," she says.

Mohamed receives support from two assistants, one program coordinator, one IT coordinator, a coordinator for the French program, and an English instructor. "I pass on many tasks to my assistants, and I help sort administrative tasks required from the department," she explains. As the college expands, so does the scope of her work—she expects more staff members to join in the near future.

At the end of her workday, Mohamed goes home to her husband Amr, a lawyer; and her son Osama, who is in the fourth grade. When she is not working, she spends her free time reading, listening to music, writing short stories, and walking.