

Tamer Institute for community Education

Reading promotion as a tool for the young educative and cultural development in Palestine

Intervention for the Mediakitab meeting – Marseille by Samar Qutob

Tamer's profile:



Tamer Institute for Community Education is a Palestinian educational non-profit organization established in 1989 as a natural and necessary response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian community during the first intifada (uprising).

The most important of these is the need to acquire means to help young people learn and become productive. Focusing on the rights to education, identity, freedom of expression, and access to information, Tamer programs address children and youth in most parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to help create alternative forms of learning outside the formal education system. We target children and young people in order to build up local capacity within the community that carries into the long term. We interpret our vision on the ground by promote reading and writing, development of children's literature, creative

self-expression as well as youth empowerment through advocacy and community development initiatives.

Tamer's programs and identity:

The National Reading campaign is one of Tamers main programs, the campaign is launched in the spring of each year through a National Reading Week that takes place between the 1st - 7th of April. Campaign is organized and implemented in coordination with tens of governmental and non- governmental institutes and hundreds of schools all over the Palestinian districts. The National Reading week is projected as an annual National festival where all forms of cultural expressions, including folk dancing; storytelling, plays, poetry, cultural trips, movies, and book discussions are held. National and local media are usually engaged in promoting for the campaign.

Children literature occupies a good space in Tamers projects and concerns. Tamer, being keen to help the development of local children literature works closely through its publishing unit, with children book writers and illustrators in order to provide quality children books that are attractive and appealing to the young readers.

The institute also nurture and support young writers and assist them to publish their first books and promote and introduce their books to a wide spectrum of readers by distributing their books to the community libraries and school libraries.

Translation of quality books that adds to the human and cultural values we believe in is also one of Tamer's concerns and projects.

Yara'at (fireflies) is a group of Palestinian youth from the West Bank and Gaza Strip that uses creative writing and drawing as a form of self-expression. The youth meet of their own initiative on regular basis, and their writings and drawings are published on a bimonthly basis as a supplement in the widely read national Al-Ayyam newspaper.

Voices from Palestine is a youth group that felt a need for a platform in English in order to reach the international community and explain in a universal language what it means to live under Israeli occupation, so that young people around the world can understand what occupation implies for the children and youth in Palestine. "*Voices*" helps to give a human face to Palestine and the occupation of the Palestinian people and land.

Sirb (flock of birds) is a group of youth that found their way of expression through drama and audio-visual means. Tamer provides them with the space, tools, and trainings they need to be able to meet, discuss their issues, and produce their plays and theatrical works.

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