

# Field Experiments in Visual Arts, (Children at Risk Homeless Children)

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Visual arts play an important role in shaping better future for children in general and street children in particular. It helps to educate minds, raise feelings and support the values associated with general taste, self-discipline, self-orientation and work appreciation. Artistic expression helps the child to achieve his personality integrity and earns the ability of appreciation, and allows him to live moments of innovation giving him pleasure and satisfaction.

Life on the street is full of risks and harm to children, but it is important to know the abilities and competencies gained through socialization in the street society so that they can be invested and exploited instead of focusing on behavioral problems. This does not mean ignoring the behavioral and psychological problems, on the contrary, there is a need for an integrated approach that not only addresses and corrects deviation but also uses the individual's strengths and abilities.

The paper addresses five experiences I planned and applied them with some of my colleagues and researchers based on artistic activities have been used to provide some life skills to children at risk, whether whom partly live in social organization or residents in street.

## **The first experiment with Dr. Walaa kassem:**

It aimed to give street child the skill of self-guidance by communicating himself and others, in order to activate the positive roles of street child in society through participating on one of visual arts forms (Narrative approach and Animation), as supporting tools for generating a dialogue with children by a common language and culture, the child can reflect his life and story in the street through the cartoon characters he created and story from himself and his colleagues imagination, allowing them to talk and think about facing challenges face-to-face.



### The second experiment with Dr. Nermin Atef:

It aimed to overcome some of negative attitudes of street child towards the environment and increases his self-esteem through handcraft, increasing his communication skill with other within social society and respect manual labor and craftsmen. The recycling raw and consumed materials to produce artworks may help street child to have income.



### The third experiment with Dr. Ghada Rashwan and Mrs. Heba Rashwan:

It aimed to prepare a campaign about street children rights by the children themselves. They made Logo, Posters and film through workshops which school children and street children under supervision of social organizations participated in.





### **The fourth experiment with Dr. Walla Kassem, Dr. Ghada Rashwan, Mrs. Heba Rashwan and Mrs. Gihad Naguib:**

It aimed to prepare a guide for children's rights from street children drawings, as they defined their right as: clean environment, education, healthy food, work, health care, play, hobby engagement.



### **The fifth experiment with Mrs. Gihad Naguib:**

It aimed to use art rehabilitation strategies with young mothers who are victims of sexual violence to develop some life skills and improve their quality of life, which makes them able to deal with the society such as self-esteem, coexistence with pressure, effective communication, decision-making and social skills, through art rehabilitation strategies (Free Artistic Formation and Directed Artistic Formation).

Through those experiences with children at risk we found that:

- The evolution of thoughts and artistic levels, which is evident from their artworks.
- Clear change in their attitudes and behavior towards the environment and others.
- Reach new and useful ideas through dealing with raw materials and environmental raw materials.
- There is a passion to identify different materials and methods of formation.



These experiments confirmed the effectiveness of visual arts several roles in non-formal education systems, civil organizations and specially for children at risk, in terms of acquiring artistic skills, modifying and acquiring some positive habits and values, and have sense of enjoyment and happiness, which increases the child's ability to guide his own life with intelligence and insight and developing quality of his life.

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