

Citizenship education in times of political transformation

The case of Egypt

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Context for Civic Education in Egypt

“Civic Education prepares the people of a country, especially the young, to carry out their roles as citizens”. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy 2007

- Very uncertain environment Long history of civil society but very disconnected Significant gap between social classes with a critical mass of working poor
 - Strong sense of solidarity and desire for stability
 - Poor educational system both in terms of content and methodology
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- Civic Attitude
 - Civic Values
 - Civic Knowledge
 - Civic Skills
 - Civic Life outside of school/work

Opportunities and challenges

-overview-

- S1: Egyptians, of all ages and backgrounds especially the youth, are **eager to participate, know their rights and duties**, and become more civically engaged;
 - C1a: **Civic Education is not seen as a priority** for a large proportion of our audience because of their lack of access to basic needs brings civic education and civic engagement
 - C1b: The **stigma** which accompanies terms such as “civic” as being something western, liberal, foreign, etc...
- S2: The **media are emphasizing** the importance of political participation and civic education;
 - C2: **Biased** and directed media which impedes the efforts made in the field of civic education.
- S3: Many stereotypes are being broken and people are beginning to **tolerate and accept differences**;
 - C3: The culture of tolerance and acceptance of difference is still in its **early stage** and the targeted audience still lack dialoging and debating skills.
- S4: A growth in the number of **emerging initiatives** providing a wider range of opportunities to disseminate civic education;
 - C4: The **lack of coordination** among the efforts of formal and informal entities, such as schools and universities, NGOs and other governmental organizations;
 - C4: **an uncertain legal framework**
- S5: The **growth of social media** tools in civic action.
 - C5: The **lack of access** to technologies by a large portion of the targeted population.
- S8: A strong interest by various entities to support Egypt in its transitional period whether through providing expertise or funding;
 - C8a: A **disabling environment** to work with external entities;
 - C8b: Producing **tailored knowledge** that suits every sub-culture, and the tools that go with it.
- S9: The level of **political and civic awareness across the population is on the rise**. Egyptians are becoming more proactive and more responsive to the demands of their communities, which was reflected in the establishment of the community committees during the revolution
 - C9: **Ongoing conflict** between **fundamentalists and liberals** in methods and definitions in civic education practices.

Topics covered by surveyed organizations

• Individual

Critical thinking Evaluation of information Dialogue Personal leadership Social responsibility Limits on freedom

• Community

Equal opportunities Community welfare The role of civil society

• Society

National history Constitution Political system and participation Human rights Social responsibility

Dissemination



- ✿ Over 90% deliver their curriculum around the Delta and the Nile Valley
- ✿ Over 75% use the internet as their main media over the Television, the Radio and print, while 1/3 of the overall population uses the internet
- ✿ None of the organizations surveyed have reported successfully entering aspects of their curriculum in the public education curriculum. Only a third tried.
- ✿ Only one organization surveyed was focusing on rural areas
- ✿ 75% focus on Youth and Children
- ✿ 83% were already working in civic education before the uprisings
- ✿ 91% revisited their programs after the uprisings

Impact and way forward

- All organizations measure their impact but none have a comprehensive M&E system
- A vast majority share their curriculum with other organizations or online to improve outreach
- All set legal and bureaucratic procedures as their main obstacle to improving their work
- 58% are willing to work with the government to insert civic education into the public schools curriculum



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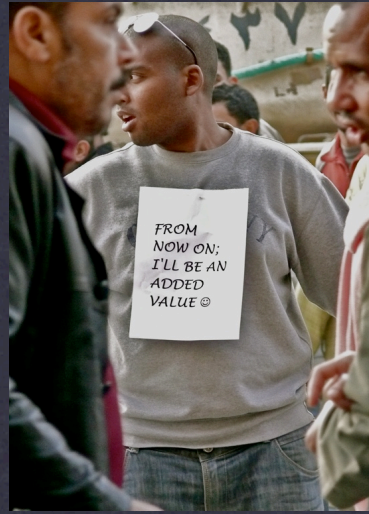
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CONTEXTUALIZED, EXPERIENTIAL AND
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Thank you! Questions?



EGYPT

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PRESENTED BY

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