

The long-term objective is to improve children's development and education In the words of Jovita Pander 2022

While in the last report we focused on the Al-Tufula Center's efforts for women's empowerment, today we take a look at the important work the center is doing regarding early childhood care and development.

The Center's second area of focus, early childhood care and development (ECCD) in the Palestinian community inside Israel, is inevitably intertwined with women's empowerment. Al-Tufula Center has a variety of approaches and working methods to promote these issues: They support the development of the necessary infrastructure, issue publications and books for children and parents, offer many different projects at the center and advocate for laws, among others.

Development of infrastructure, publications, and projects

One of the focuses of Al-Tufula Center is the capacity building, particularly for caregivers and educators. Therefore, the center offers primary training to caregivers, Nursery Managers, ECCD councilors, and ECCD-Leaders, covering a variety of critical topics such as communication skills and working with parents.

Likewise, the Al-Tufula Center regularly issues publications and books for children and parents. Meanwhile, more than 20 books have been published by Al-Tufula, the majority of which were children's books. Al-Tufula Center also sends out a regular newsletter in which the center not only reports on its work, but also shares important research and professional resources, and publishes position papers.

However, the Al-Tufula Center not only strives to further develop the infrastructure, but also offers a variety of projects and activities, most of which take place at the center. The focus here is on children's rights, children's literature, and child-to-child work, among others.

Advocacy & Networking

On the other hand, Al-Tufula Center also works in the field of lobbying and advocates for legislative changes and their implementation. For example, the center advocated for a law guaranteeing free and obligatory education from age 3, which was fully implemented in 2018. Likewise, the center is working to get the government to take more responsibility and is advocating for laws that ensure the quality of nurseries. Therefore, for example, responsibility for nurseries has finally been transferred from the Ministry of Labor to the Ministry of Education.

Furthermore, networking and collaboration with other organizations, both nationally and internationally, also represents an important aspect of the center's work. For this purpose, Al-Tufula Center participates in a variety of coalitions that advocate for children's rights locally, nationally, or regionally, and regularly organizes conferences.

Benefits for children, mothers, and society

Through this wide range of measures, the long-term objective is to improve children's development and education. Thus, not only the current childhood experiences benefit from these efforts, but also expectations of women's roles change as children grow into adults, and mothers are provided with opportunities for further development and for life outside the role of mother.