

The A. Ofri International  
Training Center

## Educational Methodologies

### Youth At-Risk: Preventing Student Dropouts and Facilitating Reintegration

From 4 May to 4 June 2015

In cooperation with UNESCO -Participation Programme and Fellowships Section



Within the framework of the debates about Education Beyond 2015 and the EFA Goals many stakeholders are advocating for the introduction of a *learning-related goal* as the most appropriate way to monitor educational progress and the prevention of early dropout rates and reducing inequality

This goal presents a great challenge which must be met with creativity, resourcefulness and hard work.

One of the targeted populations within the stated goal is **youth at-risk**. This label- given by various authorities (psychologists, educators, and sociologists) - refers to vulnerable adolescents from all socio-economic backgrounds for whom



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Training Center

normal family life has been disrupted, and lack sufficient parental or adult interaction.

For these young people, the educational system takes on a special significance. Therefore, it is especially crucial to create educational opportunities to widen access towards education. These children must integrate into schools and training programs as quickly and as fully as possible, so they could have multiple opportunities for meaningful learning experiences.

However, "access" is complex and multifaceted. The professional educators who constantly mediate between students and the world around them must be even more supportive and caring when working with this special-needs group. Educators must create opportunities and impart skills, competencies and attitudes that will enable these adolescents to be productive and resourceful members of society.

Every nation today is involved in the challenging process of providing a quality education to meet the new demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Educational systems have to develop innovative outreach programs for these school dropouts, focusing all efforts on creating positive conditions and individual skills that will foster resiliency and offset risk factors.

Given Israel's many national responsibilities - including the absorption of massive numbers of immigrants from various countries and cultures, while simultaneously dealing with emergency situations - its instructional and educational personnel have an important and highly complex role.

Israel has achieved considerable progress in increasing the number of students between the ages 12-18 who attend high school. However, despite Israel's Ministry of Education's policy for the prevention of student dropout and the development of special and varied curricula, some of these young people have not been successfully integrated into the existing system. In order to deal with this challenge and its ramifications, the Ministry has made strides in the field of youth advancement, via the development of the *Youth and Society Administration*. This section in the Ministry works toward developing and advancing the



The A. Ofri International  
Training Center

educational-remedial services for those students that have dropped out of formal educational frameworks.

In cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Education, the A. Ofri International Training Center initiated capacity development programs dealing with **youth at-risk**, including a program on "**Educational Methodologies - Youth At-Risk: Preventing Student Dropout and Facilitating Reintegration**".

This program is conducted within the cooperation of UNESCO- Participation Programme and Fellowships Section and MASHAV sponsorship of Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV), a department in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Aims of the Program:

To train participants to successfully:

- Create a relationship of mutual trust with youth in order to enable their reintegration into the educational system.
- Help individual youths develop and realize their potential so that they may help themselves and their society.
- Reduce alienation from the community and society.
- Plan educational services and interventions for youths ages 12-18 considered at-risk according to the following characteristics:
  - Detached youths who do not study or work in a formal or informal educational framework
  - Working youth who do not have a supportive educational framework
  - Youth at-risk who commit open or clandestine crimes
  - High-risk youth needing individual and ongoing support in areas including completing their education, job placement, and personal and social skills
- Raise multicultural awareness in those working toward the advancement of disadvantaged youth
- Provide tools and guidelines for curricular development
- Advance teaching methods for specific subject matter (such as science and language), as well as interdisciplinary subject areas

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- Train and advance educational staff and support them in sustaining their duties and promoting their programs
- Enable participants to choose the methods and tools suitable to the particular needs of their environment
- Provide a basis for future training activities according to the needs of the different countries and institutions

### Program Content:

- Latest concepts, methods, and tools for educational staff training
- Model of the Pluralistic Identity
- Models of Multicultural Education
- Programs designed to implement the compulsory education law for detached youth who are not integrated into formal educational frameworks, including special programs for youth in protective institutions and prisons
- Humanistic Mathematics as a Tool of Educational Insertion
- Science and Technology Projects as a Tool for Educational Insertion
- Education towards completion of certificates on various high school grade levels, within the framework of compensatory centers operated in cooperation with local authorities
- The development of social skills, practical skills and leadership
- Special seminars on civic education
- The training of special educational personnel to work with youth at-risk
- Computerized information centers to provide services for youth, locally and nationally
- Complementary education for school-excluded youth: An Evaluation Study - "From Exclusion to Inclusion"
- Improving awareness in teachers of disadvantaged students
- Ways and means designed to assist latent school dropouts
- Correlation between cultural gaps and learning perseverance level
- The influence of achievement, motivation and aspiration on learning processes



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Training Center

- Prevention of violent behavior among school students through the advancement of youth programs
- Education to prevent use of drugs and alcohol
- Sexual education

### Methodology:

- Lectures and discussions led by experts
- Workshops
- Analysis of educational planning through written material and professional visits
- Meetings with institutional administrators
- Exposure to projects at the national and regional level
- Simulations, panel discussions, and group work
- Preparation of final projects by individuals or groups, based on the professional interests of participants
- Study tours: Schools, educational centers (including science and art centers), universities, teacher training institutions, and pedagogical resource centers

### Program Requirements:

High-level educational staff, at the regional or national level, dealing with the target population

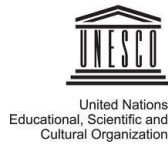
School principals, counselors, supervisors

Lecturers at teacher training institutions

Researchers in relevant fields

### Certificate of Studies:

A Certificate of Studies will be awarded to participants who have attended classes regularly and fulfilled all requirements.



The A. Ofri International  
Training Center

**Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) will assume costs relating to:**

- a) Registration and tuition fees
- b) Accommodations (Room and Board)
- c) Health insurance and basic medical care (This does not include dental care, glasses and chronic illnesses)

**Application forms should be send to the relevant Israeli Mission and to the Ofri Center by or before 19.03.2015**

Application forms and other information may be obtained at the nearest Israeli mission and at MASHAV's website: <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il> (Courses)

**Accommodation**

Participants will stay at the Ramat-Rachel Hotel, located on the outskirts of Jerusalem, on a two person per room basis. For more information: <http://www.ramatrachel.co.il>.

**Social Activities**

Participants are requested to bring traditional clothing that represent their country for cultural and folklore presentations during the workshop. If the participants wish, they may bring souvenirs from their countries to present to other participants.

**Medical Insurance**

MASHAV will cover medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. **It does not cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, dental**



The A. Ofri International  
Training Center

care, eye glasses, and the period of pregnancy or specific medication taken by the participant on a regular basis. Health forms must be completed and signed by a physician. The insurance policy **does not** cover damage or loss of personal belongings.

- Flights, Passport and Visas:

The scholarship given by MASHAV does not include the cost of the flight ticket to Israel and/or from Israel. We highly recommend booking your arrival for the day before the beginning of the seminar, and your departure for the day after the seminar ends. Passports must be valid for the duration of the entire seminar, and must include an entry visa to Israel.

- Two additional passport-size photographs for various documents are required.
- Should you plan to visit or transit via other countries while on your way to and from Israel, please arrange visas before leaving home, as there is no possibility of receiving visas in Israel.

### MASHAV - Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation

Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, known as MASHAV, was founded in 1958 as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is responsible for initiating and implementing Israel's development cooperation program worldwide. MASHAV aims at transferring the expertise and technologies which have assisted Israel on its own path to development to other countries.

Today, Israel cooperates with over 140 countries, providing training in Israel and abroad, operating on-site demonstration projects and building medical infrastructure in partner countries.

The World Conference on Education held in Thailand in 1990, marked the emergence of an international consensus that education is the single most vital element in the fight against poverty.



**MASHAV**  
Israel's Agency for International  
Development Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



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## A Window to Innovations in Education

The **Ofri International Training Center** was established in 1989 as a core extension of MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The Center's area of expertise is the transmission of knowledge about education, which is essential for the development of civil society. It concerns itself with learning at all levels, from elementary and secondary school through adult education, and provides knowledge and training for basic skills development, civic awareness, community education, education for special populations, treatment for youth (including those at risk), youth integration, youth leadership, education for health and the prevention of drugs abuse. In adopting the UN's Millennium Development Goals, the Ofri Center contributes to the sustainable development of human resources internationally, based on knowledge and experience accumulated in Israel.

Since its inception, the Ofri Center has trained thousands of professionals from countries throughout the world. The Center cooperates with senior staff in the Israeli Ministry of Education, academic experts, government organizations and non-governmental organizations. In addition, it communicates and cooperates with key international organizations such as UNESCO, OECD, USAID, UNOCD, IOM and the World Bank.

*"Education leads to empowerment – the surest guarantee of sustainable grow"*