**IRAQ & KURDISTAN**

1. **Please provide information on how to respect cultural diversity in your country and respect the cultural rights of each individual, which reflected in the school curriculum (legal, institutional and policy framework and practice);**

* Since there is a multicultural society in this geography with many people from different nationalities, life has been arranged accordingly. In this context, books in schools had been written accordingly in schools. Some articles and subjects can address everyone in a local book, such as (Respect, human values, family, environment, love of animals, sports, old games, cultural days, etc.) It can also differ according to the students coming to the school in the lessons taught in the classes; the most obvious example for this is in language teaching classes. For example, in some of our schools, besides native English, Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, and some other languages ​​are taught electively. However, the following should not be forgotten: Although we teach in English, according to the laws and policies of this region, Kurdish lessons are taught in Kurdish. This is applied for Arabic language in Iraq. This causes them to learn about their culture and language.
* Of course, the curriculum is at the point of further development. It is being updated with innovations day by day. One of the most significant shares in these developments in our schools, because our education staff, who have worked in different parts of the world and have seen different curricula, contribute a lot to them. The books we have chosen to teach in our schools are accepted books in the world. Of course, when choosing these books, multicultural students and parents are taken into consideration. There are no works of art that are contrary to their emotion, thought, and tradition.
* Culturally, every religion is given as a public policy and a holiday in schools on its private days. People live their religions and cultures without any hesitation.
* GLOBAL HUMANITY VALUES, regardless of culture, religion, and language, are explained in a curriculum accompanied by games and accompanied by games in a curriculum.

**2. Provide information on how the respect for cultural diversity and respect for the cultural rights of each individual is taken into account in the school system and the organization of schools in your country. (legislation, institutional and policy framework and practice).**

* Due to the existence of many cultures, nationalities, and religions, many cultural festivals are organized in our schools every year for their socialization. Events in all languages are organized in these cultural festivals. Each student participates in this activity with his own culture. They sing songs in their language, play their folk dances, serve food from their own culture at their stands, and display their culture items. The participants here are not only school students, their parents, but also the bureaucracy in the country and the whole public. These programs are aimed at embracing all the people, sometimes in the school garden, sometimes in big parks and sometimes in big shopping places. In these programs, some student groups open the stands of nations that are not here and present their culture to people at these stands. For example, Germany is the stand, where German culture is presented to people and they attend and support these events at the ambassadors in the country. The NETHERLAND stand in Baghdad, where the Dutch culture was presented to people, and the ambassador of the Netherlands in Baghdad participated in the program and gave a speech and supported the kids.
* There are students, teachers, and employees from different nations, different religions, and different languages in our schools. We look at all this difference as people who play different instruments in an orchestra. After all, this orchestra sings a piece of Beethoven, and different voices can never be the reason for the disturbance. Some of our schools have teachers from 12 different nationalities and students from 5 different nationalities. Nevertheless, we are trying to make this choir sing well with an orchestra conductor, and we see that we have succeeded with the recycling we received. The differences are not uncomfortable because the basic principle of behavior is "Tolerance and accepting everyone in their position."
* Arab, Kurdish, Turkmen, Ashuri, Chaldean, Christian, Kakei, Siryani nations exist and live together, and there is no problem. For example, they live together in Kirkuk. Young people in these nations can also marry each other. Families also allow it.
* There are representatives of 8 different beliefs in the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Kurdistan. Although some belief groups have few believers, they have their own private place and are not banned as a state. The same is valid for education in schools.

**3. Clarify to what extent the measures described above relate solely to the question of languages in education(in this context, please briefly describe the context and provide detailed information about State language policy), but also in all their diversity in art, heritage, science, history, values, and religions or world views and lifestyles.**

* Every nation can receive education in their native language. For example; There are international schools providing education in Turkmen language, Turkmen language, Assyrians, Assyrian language, Kurds in the Kurdish language, Arabs in the Arabic language, and English for foreigners. They also enter university exams in their language. The university exam held here is held in 5 different languages. It can also take part in exams in some dialects. For example, in Duhok, a question is asked in the Kırmanci dialect. In Erbil and Süleymaniye, questions are asked according to the Sorani dialect. In other words, people's languages are respected by asking questions not only from languages but even from dialects.
* Recently, many new Arab schools have been opened for many Arab students who came here (to Kurdistan) because of the ISIS war. In other words, whatever culture and national students are there, they do their best for them and try to protect them with their own culture.
* Official languages in Iraq are Arabic and Kurdish. However, the Turkmen language was accepted in addition to these languages due to the Turkmen density in Kirkuk. These three languages are written together, including the signs in the province.
* The signs and panels are written in English, which is the universal language.
* People in this region are generally very good at communicating with each other since they have grown since they were small, knowing all 3 languages. Thus, neighborhood relationships, friendship relations in schools are very good. People do not have a situation of not getting along with each other.
* neighbor countries (Turkey, Iran, ...) due to the interaction of Persian and Turkish-speaking people are also numerous.
* Learning each other's language instead of a third language is an easy factor that will increase the conversation. However, the effort to learn the language of the interlocutor increases mutual love and respect
* Students in this region have been studying English for 25 years, starting with our schools. Tens of thousands of students that have been graduated from our schools, so far have graduated with knowledge of English. Thus, this ensured the opening of society to the world.
* Eight students with full scholarship have gone to MIT University in Iraq history; one of them is our student who graduated from Baghdad schools
* Also, the ability to learn languages is very high here. The developing internet infrastructure and TVs also have a big impact on this. For example, A normal citizen here can learn Turkish from TV and English from Youtube. It is normal for a civil servant to know four languages here (Kurdish, Arabic, English, and Turkish). Fifteen years ago, an elderly woman who visit our teacher who was from abroad said, "Son, do you speak Arabic, or do you speak Kurdish? "After the university graduate teacher who speaks English said no, she replied and said to him: How sad it is. You are so ignorant. You don't know Arabic or Kurdish.
* One outgoing Another example: is that when a person visits turkey for vacation or for a business can learn Turkish immediately within the 15 days. The language learning skills of the people in this region are very high.

**4. Identify the specific challenges faced in providing an inclusive and quality education that allows cultural diversity and the cultural rights of each individual to develop simultaneously;**

* First of all, the biggest problem faced in this regard is nationalism that can occur in every geography. In every environment where nationalism is at the forefront, having different nations and having different cultures can be a problem.
* Another issue is the subject of religion and sect. The fact that the media in the world consistently report on this issue with its negative aspects makes people enemies who have been living together friendly.
* Rich and poor range reveals a natural, cultural difference. When the students of these two groups are in the same school, problems may be encountered if the school administration and education system are not fully established.
* The authorities in the professions of families also cause students to gain different cultural and moral values, which is sometimes a problem among students.
* Eating and drinking habits are various in different cultures, making it difficult to like meals in schools or to create a common menu. This culture takes time to change. For this, different menus or different cultural dishes divided into days at schools will make common life easier.
* One of the most important challenges is to explain and implement innovations to a closed community of people.
* Political issues are one of the factors affecting this issue. Many states in the world are involved with the internal politics of this region due to its geographical location and underground resources. They can cause big wars and can come up with internal confusion. One of the last examples is the ISIS issue. Of course, these events deeply injure education, culture, and respect for different groups.
* As travel and excursions increase, love increases as recognition increases, and respect increases as love increases. In societies with respect, everyones' right is protected. For this reason, travel is very important.

**5. Have special mechanisms been set up to ensure and engage stakeholders, particularly relevant populations and parents, for better understanding and effectiveness of the rights of education, including the cultural dimension of the right to education? In this context, which place is given to children's opinions?**

It is very important that parents are included or trying to induce them in education. Here, we think that we have achieved this with some of the activities we do in our schools. In this way, the status difference, religious difference, cultural difference between the parents disappear, and we can act towards the same purpose. For example, some of the work we do for parents

* **Parent's breakfast:** Each teacher calls the parents of the students who are under their guidance for breakfast at school at certain intervals. It is possible to talk about the students with these parents, as well as the tasks that fall on parents and current issues. Ideas are exchanged. Everyone declares their opinion. In a way, brainstorming is done
* **Parent food contest:** By organizing a food contest between parents, it ensures that everyone in different cultures can see and causes people to mingle with each other. The result makes all participants very, very happy. Especially judges 😊
* **Father-child activity:** An in-school activity is organized where father and child are together. This is sometimes a sports competition, sometimes a movie event, sometimes a trip, etc. Thus, a bond is established among the parents and between the child with her/his father. Again, cultural differences turn into wealth here.
* **Parent visits:** All of our teachers visit the family's home at least twice a year. He talks to them. She or he is discussing with the guidance teacher. Sincerity is increasing. This has a lot of advantages both in terms of students and parents, as well as great contribution to teachers' recognition of children and parents.
* **Parent's Rewarding System**: Especially in cases where the students in the young age group do and receive an award, they invite the parents to school the next day and present the child in the presence of the students. The fact that parents do the same, despite being in different cultures and statuses, contributes to the principle of equality. Some of our parents may be ministers, and some may be small trades. Alternatively, some of our parents are Christians, and some are Muslims. It is not a problem that some are Kurdish; some are Turkish, some are Arab, some are from other nations. Because, after all, they are a father.
* **Parent Sports Activities:** Establish a group with parents in our school and create a team of volleyball, basketball, football, etc. with them. In sports activities, our teachers come together, and we show that these different people, in other words, people with different languages ​​and cultures, can do an activity together, because sports are universal.
* **Parent School Council:** It is very important for a group of parents who are selected from the parents of the students to meet with the school administration at certain intervals to explain their ideas to them. Thus, the administration is also represented by the parents.
* **Parent book reading contests:** A group is established with the parents in our school, and a book is selected to be read with them, and there will be a contest is held, and gifts are given. It is desired to instill the importance of reading in this way to students.
* **Parent book readings:** Parents in our school are invited daily and read stories to the class, especially in kindergarten.
* **Parents' Participation in the Activities of the School:** Many of the school's activities (Cultural festivals, seminars, project Olympics, domestic and international trips, picnics, special days of Iraq and Kurdistan, ceremonies, fairs, evening sports activities, Nevroz celebrations, Occupation Introductory days,…) The participation of parents both forces them to learn different topics and causes them to communicate among themselves.

**6. What should be given as a recommendation to States and other stakeholders on these issues?**

* We also provide students with some scholarships without discrimination at our schools. For example, to the children of the families of martyrs, to the children of the people who fled from ISIS and took refuge here, to the children who are very poor but want to continue with school, to children who are capable of art and sports,
* Education was at the very end, as some of the regions here suffered a lot during times of war. One of these places is Halabja. We took a decision as a company and opened schools in this city. These schools are also boarding schools. We also made all the training fees here free of charge. In this way, we made a great contribution to the rate of reading in this province. In fact, some of our students who graduated from these schools and graduated from university have become teachers in this school. Some of them became doctors in the same province. This was a source of pride for us. In this way, we have shown that in private schools, when education is not only for rich children, the difference in class can be eliminated with such projects.

**To open our Halabja sample a little more;**

within the framework of a brotherhood project, and the agreement of our company with the Ministry of Education of Kurdistan, a Girl and a Boy High School in Halabja provide a world-class education service to the people of this region, (not only students living in the center of Halabja, but in the vicinity of Halabja, Hawraman-Said Sadiq-Penjuen-Derbendikhan-young students who live in the district of Halabja-Sirvan are admitted to the school and since the distance is far away, these students are also offered a dormitory (accommodation)). Students take a year of preparation by delivering their education numeric courses and classes (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer, English) in the English language is taught. Besides, the Turkish course language (The official language of Turkey) is taught. Besides, mother tongue education is taught in Kurdish and, in addition, Arabic, of course. Since there is a limited number of places available, the student is admitted to the school after an exam and educational service is provided. These schools make many achievements, beautiful activities. We can list them as follows:

* Being first in the university entrance exam of the country and the number of successful students in the top 10
* Activities of our student playing Santur (local instrument) in the World Music Children's group given in the UN Assembly in the USA
* Students' participation and promotion in the Olympics (IMO, IBO, HIPPO ...) and Project Competitions held worldwide.
* Achievements in DISTCO (Digital Story Telling C.) Activities organized in America
* Achievements and participation in regional social and scientific competitions
* Social projects to enlighten students' parents.
* Announcing the culture of our students to the world with their language and culture festivals, with their successful participation in song-based tours in different parts of the world, especially in the field of sound….
* As another example of this application in our city of Duhok. We visited the surrounding villages to find the students who want to go to school, but they are poor, we selected them and registred to our schools with full scholarships and accommodate all in our dormitories
* Aiming contribution to the education system in this region, our students in the education faculty (Tishk International University) have been studying for free for years, which belongs to us here. It explains and implements the very advanced teaching profession they receive in students who graduate from here.
* The state officials here have made a tremendous contribution to this. Free school grounds, providing school buildings, assisting with formal procedures, and supporting institutions that will provide training in all subjects. The support of the state in this way has brought friendly competition among private schools, thereby improving the quality of education.
* At the same time, it is a different beauty that some parents of the students with good financial means provide scholarships for poor students' tuition fees.
* It will be very beneficial to open dormitories for students who are from different cities and regions like we did in Halabja.
* After the refugee flow and ISIS trouble, the feeling of trust between people was seriously damaged. People who came out without locking their homes have even started to add extra locks to their homes.
* While creating a wide range of school curricula for the future, creating a board with wide participation and having people from all nations, sects, and religions are very important for books in a multicultural environment.

These issues and issues like these, It is very important that the implementations are made both by the governments and charities or to support and continue their activities. If we want a world generation within the framework of universal values, we have to grab the bull by its horn for this.

Some of the Erasmus-style programs are also encouraged at the secondary and high school levels, and at the same time, by providing visa convenience, student exchanges.

Dr. Omed Hama

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