



Civic Education & Human Rights

Success Story

Project title:

Arraba Center for People with Disabilities

Arraba- Jenin District

2011

Arraba is a small Palestinian town located 13km to the southwest of Jenin city in the northern West Bank. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Arraba had a population of 9,920 in 2007. Like other neighbourhoods in Jenin Governorate, Arraba has many residents with a range of disabilities. Indeed, the PCBS reported in 2011 that 4.1% of people in Jenin had a disability, making it one of the governorates with highest rates of persons with disabilities in Palestine.¹

Restricted mobility is the disability with the highest prevalence in Jenin Governorate, comprising about 50% of the persons with disabilities in the governorate. Persons with disabilities in Arraba have suffer from discrimination and inadequate services like many other people with disabilities in Palestine. Based on affidavits made by members of the town's municipality council during an interview with the staff of the Teacher Creativity Center in 2011, nearly 85% of persons with disabilities were unemployed. In 2011, Arraba Primary Girls School took part in TCC's Project Citizen. 22 girl from the 9th grade were trained in the problem-solving technique applied by TCC to tackle and reduce human rights abuses in Palestinian communities.

Following the training, the 22 students started to research, list and analyse the various human rights violations experienced by persons with disabilities in Arraba. The students decided collectively that the social exclusion of persons with disabilities in Arraba was the most urgent problem that needed to be remedied through their work. Students proposed several alternatives to reduce the prevalence of the aforementioned violation in their town. They proposed the

¹ This rate is based on the narrow definition of persons with disabilities. According to the wider, international definition the rate is closer to 7.3% (PCBS).

establishment of a centre for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in Arraba as a way of addressing the problem.

The action plan proposed by students included public awareness workshops on the rights of persons with disabilities, dialogue with Community Based Organisations, and the municipality council to gain their support regarding the proposed alternative. They also lobbied the local media.

The students were able to arrange meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Local Government and the Governor of Jenin Governorate. In late 2011, the centre became a reality through the support of the aforementioned ministries, the local private sector and various social actors including CBOs and human rights activists. Today, the centre provides rehabilitation services for an estimated 571 persons with disabilities from Arraba and 4 neighbouring communities.