



Children who do not feel safe, cannot learn. And teachers who lack training and resources, do not perform to their full potential. Respect Education Foundation has developed a program to improve teaching and create a safe and rewarding learning environment.

THE SITUATION

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives all children the right to education. Schooling should enable them to develop themselves as human beings and promote tolerance, understanding and friendship.

For millions of children growing up in conflict and poverty, schools are not the safe havens where they can fully develop their potential. The circumstances under which they live affect their ability to learn and harm their self-esteem. Problems in society are carried into the classroom, leading to discrimination and bullying.

For their teachers, the lack of materials or adequate professional training is frustrating, preventing them from delivering the quality of education that they know children need. And there is little or no support available to them to help them deal with children affected by difficult socio-economic circumstances or security issues.

RESPECT EDUCATION

Children and teachers can be powerful catalysts for change in their community, but only when they are equipped with the right tools and information. The Respect Education program aims to help children deal with conflict in their immediate surroundings and supports teachers working under difficult conditions. The program provides continuous professional education and helps teachers and pupils to address safety and security issues in class together.

Throughout the school year, children attend monthly workshops where they learn to respect themselves, other people, and their surroundings. The workshops are taught by their own teachers together with specially trained local facilitators. The topics discussed and the interactive learning techniques used during the workshops help to reduce bullying and discrimination. Teachers receive several training sessions where they learn to develop their professional competences and learn inclusive teaching methods. The facilitators help them to incorporate the new teaching styles into their daily work. In addition, schools can initiate activities related to Respect Education themes such as gender, ethnicity and the environment, where the children can further develop confidence and leadership skills. These skills are considered highly relevant in the 21st century job market. A twinning program with schools abroad or elsewhere in the country can also be set up, broadening the children's horizons.

OUR ROLE, YOUR ROLE

The Respect Education Foundation and its local partners select and train facilitators, who are always familiar with the area and its education system. The facilitators train the teachers in the use of inclusive teaching methods. The program is then scaled up according to the Train the Trainers method. Respect Education Foundation also ensures that the program fits within educational aims and policies. We work with the Respect Education Program because we believe a peaceful society starts at school. The program enables us to reach out to a large number of teachers and children.

If you share our vision and want to support our program, please join us in our efforts to improve education and create peaceful classrooms. Visit www.respecteducation.me or e-mail us via info@respecteducation.me

THEORY AND PRACTICE GO HAND IN HAND

Three educational theories underpin the program: multiple intelligence, adaptive learning and co-operative learning. Apart from that there is a special focus on trauma-sensitive teaching.

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE

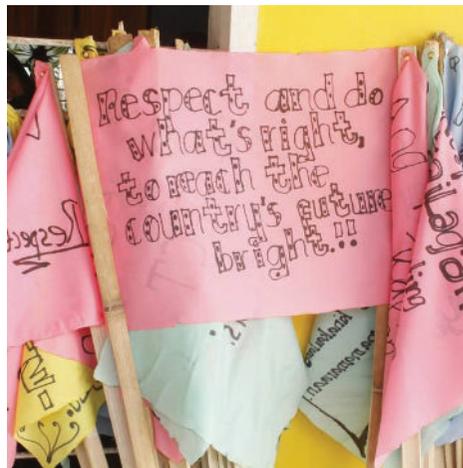
Multiple intelligence theory states that children learn in different ways: some children learn visually, some prefer working things out for themselves, some learn better when they act a story. In eight workshops all these concepts are used. Respect Education puts the child's competences and learning preferences first, and makes use of differing learning styles by varying the work formats.

ADAPTIVE LEARNING

To be able to learn, students have three basic needs: a sense of belonging, the confidence that they are capable of learning and a measure of autonomy in how and what they learn. The Respect Education program inspires confidence in shy pupils and pupils suffering from discrimination. It also promotes mutual respect and understanding among students regardless of socio-economic or ethnic differences, which in turn diminishes bullying.

CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING

By working together in small groups, children get to know each other better and learn to respect differences. At the same time, they learn to co-operate, to think critically and communicate with others in a constructive way.



ADVANTAGES OF THE RESPECT EDUCATION PROGRAM

- › The program contributes to leading educational aims such as K-12, school development and 21st century learning skills.
- › It makes education relevant to the context in which it is taking place.
- › Respect Education workshops help pupils and teachers deal with matters such as conflict, discrimination, poverty and trauma.
- › As methods are integrated into everyday teaching, the program does not depend heavily on extra hours or changes in the timetable.
- › After being trained, the teachers are not left to struggle by themselves, but receive support on how to put new methods into practice.
- › Through the Train the Trainers approach and support of the community, the program can stand on its own after three years, with only basic funding for materials and feedback and improvement.
- › Vulnerable children such as girls and children from a minority background learn to develop a healthy self-esteem and are better able to take charge of their lives.
- › REP is a life skills program, focusing on developing the 'soft skills'. It enables youth to show and take leadership and prepares them for the future.

PEACE BUILDING AND TRAUMA SENSITIVE TEACHING

Underlying the whole program is the idea that differences of opinion and differences in background, gender, culture, or religion should be respected. Children learn that arguments are normal, even useful sometimes, and can be resolved without resorting to violence or discrimination. This makes the program suitable for countries coping with violence or a history of conflict.

Trauma sensitive teaching offers an integrated approach on dealing with traumatized children in daily teaching. Teachers learn how to recognize the behaviour of traumatized children and how to encourage them to express themselves in a safe environment. Every individual's way of dealing with trauma is respected and children and teachers learn to understand each other's fears and sadness.

WEEK OF RESPECT

Yearly, the 2nd Week of November, we celebrate the Week of Respect. The concept started in 2006 in The Netherlands with hundreds of guest lecturers, teachers and teacher training college students visiting schools, to share their personal story and debate with students. Sharing an authentic story makes the concept of respect personal and concrete. Feelings are expressed; thoughts are made tangible, placing both the storyteller and the children in a position of strength. For years REF has experienced the power of dialogue.

RESPECT EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES - CASE Creating peaceful classrooms

Armed conflict has disrupted much of Mindanao, especially the communities with Muslim, Christian and indigenous people, since the early seventies. Economically, the island has lagged behind the rest of the Philippines. Government programs to alleviate poverty do not always reach the people in need. Schools are sometimes too far away for children to reach, and they are poorly equipped. The quality of education is low.

The Respect Education program was introduced in 2013, at a time when the Philippine government introduced the international K-12 curriculum. This focuses on 21st century skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication. Learning to learn is emphasized, rather than only the content of a lesson. K-12 is also child-centered, aiming to increase a child's self-esteem and confidence, so they can actively participate in class. The Respect Education program provides schools with methods and techniques to implement these skills into the curriculum.

"Respect Education is the first program to come to our school to help improve education. It is a blessing. It helps us to grow as teachers. I learned co-operative and adaptive teaching methods in teacher training college, but the different learning styles were new to me.", says teacher Jeanelyn Villena Nadar, from Palimbang

Starting with workshops for 650 children in 2013 the Respect Education Program now involves over

Engaging in conversation with each other is the basis, it provides direction for solutions to combat intolerance and discrimination.

The central theme of the Week of Respect is building the respect zone. A respect zone is an environment where everyone feels comfortable and accepted the way he or she is. And that area is always in motion; it starts with yourself, your family, your class, the school, your club, neighbourhood, city or town, and ultimately your country and the entire world... During the Week of Respect we discuss the concept and find ways to construct a respect zone together.

10,000 children at 72 schools and 260 teachers have been trained. The Universities of Groningen and Mindanao completed a study on the effectiveness of the Respect Education program in 21 schools. After one year the Respect program already reduces the cases of aggressive behaviors in schools particularly peer victimization and bullying and showed improvement on how the teachers perform their job.

Regan Dagadas is regional coordinator of the Department of Education in Region XII of Mindanao and overseeing the new education programs.

"In the school context, it cannot be underestimated how important class-dynamics are. [...] We can all agree the ultimate goals are important, but we have to realise it all boils down to one person; the one in front of the class. [...] The point is many teachers are fighting this fight every day. The methods of Respect Education, the constructive teaching approach will help, not only to keep students on task but also to keep them interacting with their peers while learning new knowledge and skills."



RESPECT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

CHALLENGES

Hampered access due to discrimination
Pupils from different ethnic, religious or cultural backgrounds don't mix, and bullying is rife. Pupils who do not feel safe at school have trouble focusing on their lessons and are more likely to drop out.

Low quality of teaching
Large classes, inadequate training ("chalk and talk") and a lack of resources leave teachers struggling to cope. Professional education is often not available. If it is, it often takes the shape of a one-day workshop, with no support afterwards, so that learning is not put into practice.

Lack of 21st century skills
Modern teaching should emphasize creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication to qualify pupils for a job in the digital age. Governments and schools often struggle with implementing new teaching methods as they differ widely from those that teachers were trained in.

Dealing with trauma
A huge challenge for teachers in fragile or conflict-prone areas is recognizing and dealing with traumatized or troubled children.

RESPECT EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

Getting to know yourself and each other
Respecting yourself, respecting others and respecting your surroundings is the message delivered and internalized. Working in mixed groups, pupils get to know children they would otherwise not talk to. A history module gives minority students their place in history.

Invest training and guidance
Respect Education provides the professional education that so many teachers want. In three training sessions teachers are guided through the new teaching methods and helped to incorporate them in their daily lessons. Respect Education Facilitators visit the school regularly to check up on them and provide support during the first years.

Creative and interactive teaching/learning
Respect Education modules introduce learning methods that enable pupils to develop these skills. Working in small groups, the children learn their lessons also through theatre, dance, poetry and debating. Lessons are sometimes taught outside, involving the community, and children are encouraged to explore their world.

Recognizing trauma
Respect Education trains teachers to pick up signals that all is not well with a child. Teachers get to know their pupils better and trust between pupils and teachers grows.

FACTS AND FIGURES

2013-2014:
3000 Children in the Philippines were reached
75 Teachers were trained in the Philippines.

2014 - 2017:
10.000 children and **400** teachers in the Philippines.

15.000 children and **160** teachers in Burundi / DRC in primary schools and **11.000** students and **650** teachers in secondary schools are involved in REP.



ABOUT RESPECT EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Respect Education Foundation, founded in 2006, aims to bring cultures and religions together, starting with children in school. By developing their social and emotional skills, children learn to manage their emotions, to communicate and resolve conflicts nonviolently. This leads to a better atmosphere in the class and to better learning results.

More than 900.000 children in the Netherlands have taken part so far. In 2012, the international program was developed in cooperation with Cordaid and implemented in 2013 in the Philippines, DRC and Burundi. It is now being scaled up and expanded to other countries.

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