

Combining Life Skills and Literacy: The Potential of the MOOC CORE for disadvantaged groups in Egypt

Project duration in months : 18 (preferable: 30)

Starting date : January 1, 2022

Project leader : Samir Boulos

Lead Institution : Zurich University of Teacher
Education (PH Zürich)



Swiss and MENA Partners :

- 1) Zurich University of Teacher Education (PH Zürich),
Department International Project in Education (IPE)
- 2) University of Asyut, Faculty of Education
- 3) University of Zurich, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies

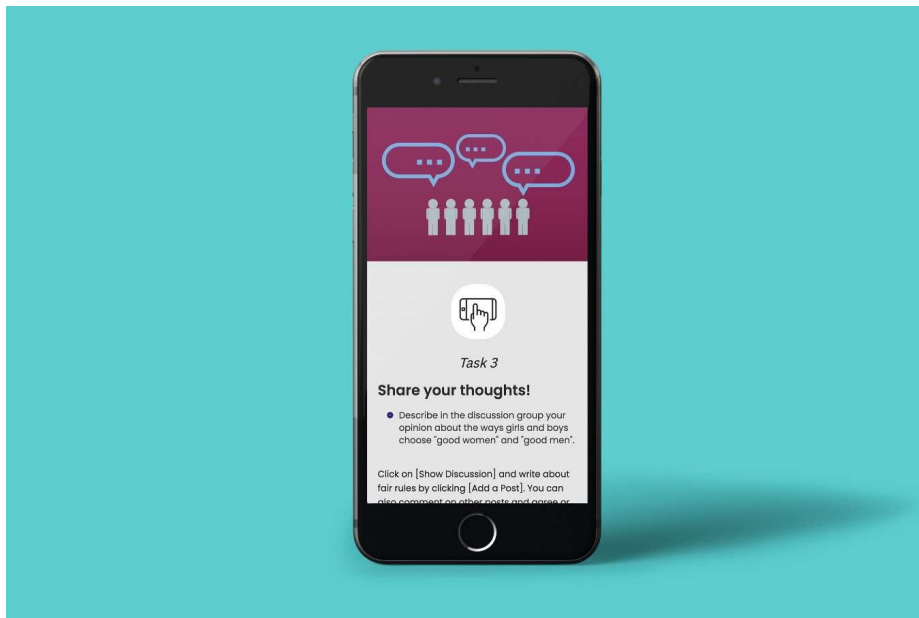


Objectives :

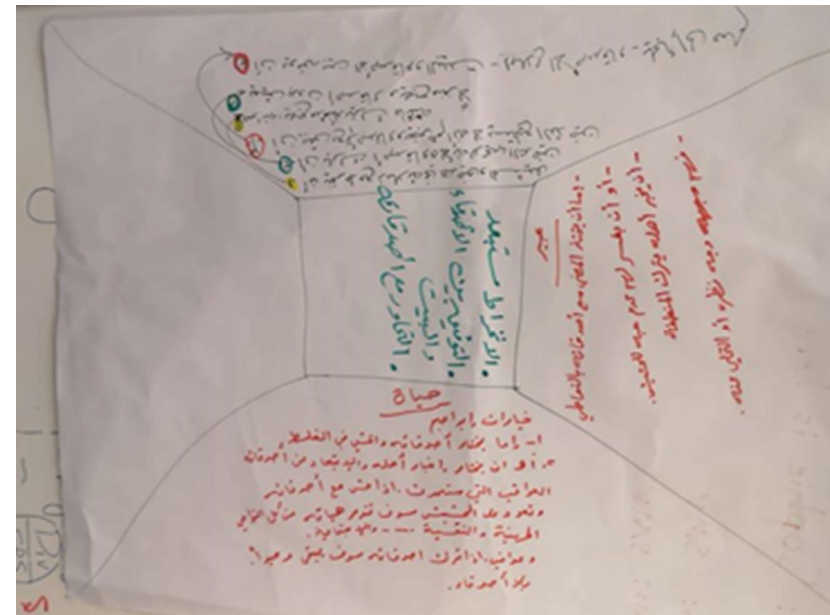
- 1) Capacity building in the development of MOOCs in teacher training is provided
- 2) Teacher trainers and students of Asyut's Faculty of Education are trained to use CORE as part of their life skills and job orientation teaching
- 3) Life skills and job orientation skills are fostered through trainings with CORE in the framework of literacy campaigns in the region of Asyut
- 4) Transversal objective: Special focus is put on gender aspects and women's/girls' empowerment as part of life skills teaching



CORE: A step-by-step program to develop life skills and self-competencies among young people



The CORE edX course is freely available at:
<https://mooc.phzh.ch/> (offline version also downloadable)

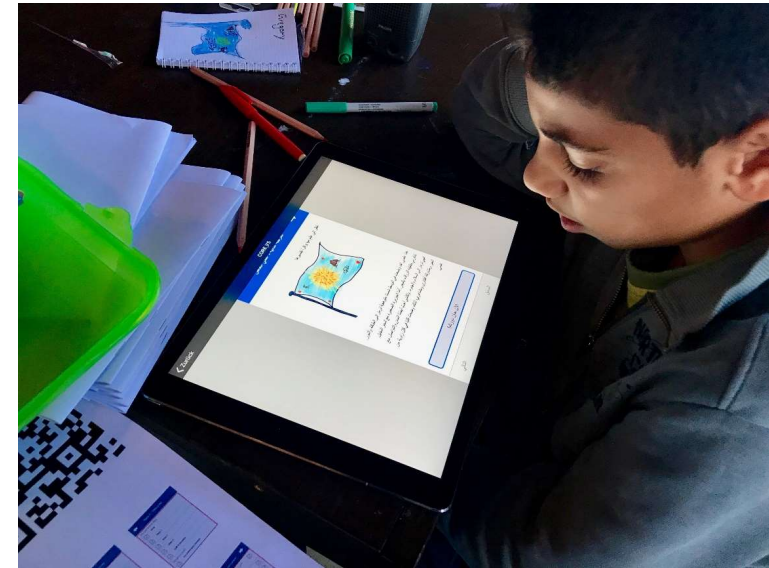


Placemat created by Syrian NGO trainers in a
CORE Training in November 2020



Aims of CORE

- Support schools and educational NGOs working on transversal skills
- Promotion and fostering of life skills & transversal skills among teenagers and young adults
- CORE has been developed for vulnerable groups
→ The topics are relevant for all young people
- Contribution to personal orientation, integration into the society and to developing self-esteem
- CORE is used in Greece (since 2019) and Lebanon (since 2020)
- The 9 topics deal with (among others): dealing with emotions, health, job orientation, discussing values and norms



A boy working with CORE in an early test training in Athens, November 2017



Main activities / Work Packages :

- 1) Exchange visit: presentation of the literacy program (Egyptian team) and introduction into the CORE-program and MOOC-development (Swiss team)
- 2) Develop a draft manual on how illiterate learners can use CORE and how literacy campaigns can be combined with life skills education as well as girls/women's empowerment
- 3) Elaboration of questionnaires for students and trainers (Asyut University) on the use of the materials
- 4) Identifying best partners that already conduct literacy campaigns and can test the CORE material
- 5) CORE-pilot: Using the CORE material in the literacy training settings for 4 months (training and coaching through PHZH and University of Asyut lecturers)
- 6) Evaluation (based on questionnaires results) of the outcomes of the CORE-pilot and of the potentials of MOOCs for the teaching at the Faculty of Education of Asyut University



Expected Outcomes :

- 1) Capacity building is realized at the Asyut University with a focus on the potentials of a MOOC combined with life skills education and gender aspects
- 2) The literacy campaigns use life skills training (based on CORE) in pilot phase
- 3) A manual for trainers is drafted on how to use CORE in the framework of literacy campaigns
- 4) Insights are gained on the potentials of MOOCs for Asyut University and of the CORE-program for the literacy campaigns.



Risk Management :

- 1) Discovering strengths and capacities can lead to the questioning of social norms, esp. gender norms, thus increasing tensions within families
- 2) Student cooperation is not forthcoming to engage in combining literacy campaigns with life skills training
- 3) Cooperation with the NGOs realizing the literacy campaigns is not forthcoming
- 4) Developments of the COVID-pandemic hamper the implementation of the project

