

Education of Human Rights In the State of Qatar.

Qatar came a long way to achieving some of its ambitions to spread the culture of human rights. Qatar's modern experience is considered to be of the most important priorities at the national, regional and international levels, as this experiment is based on the foundations and a clear vision derived from the provisions and principles of the Constitution, along with conventions and relevant international standards.

A - Qatar began to work systematically to spread the culture of human rights since 2006, with an international references represented by:

1 – The UN General Assembly resolution A/59/113 of 10 December 2004, which proclaimed a World Programme for Human Rights education

2 – The UN General Assembly resolution B/59/113 of 10 December 2004, which supports the revised Plan of Action on the first phase of the World Programme for human rights education (2005-2007): which defines education in the field of human rights as the efforts of education, training and publishing that aims at the formation of a global culture of human rights through the transfer of knowledge and teaching skills necessary to promote, protect and fulfill human rights in everyday life.

Educational activities in the field of human rights should take into account the following principles:

- Promoting respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms
- The full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity
- Promoting understanding, tolerance and equality between the sexes, and friendship among nations and peoples.
- Enabling all persons to participate effectively in a free society.

B - The need to implement a national human rights education program in Qatar

According to the foundations laid during the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), it is noticed that the international community has a growing recognition that education leads to long-term results and contribute to the prevention of violations and the outbreak of violent conflict in the long term.

Education and dissemination of human rights in Qatar is considered to be a national priority, as it is a mechanism that prevents violations of human rights; On the other hand it is the responsibility of government under international agreements and instruments, especially those that have been approved by the state.

Work began on the dissemination of the culture of human rights over the past decade by providing some specialized educational and training programs targeted vulnerable groups and other groups that are often likely to affect human rights, as well as groups entrusted with the promotion of human rights, These programs were set up by several authorities that play an essential part in protecting and promoting human rights such as The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children, Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and Qatar National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) which was established in 2002.

C – The Guiding Principles that have been acted upon in Qatar to develop a national action plan for dismissing the culture of human rights

- 1- Establishing a national committee
- 2- Conducting a baseline study/ needs assessment survey
- 3- Identifying priorities and specifying the needy
- 4- Developing a Plan
- 5- Implementation of the plan
- 6- Reviewing and revising the plan

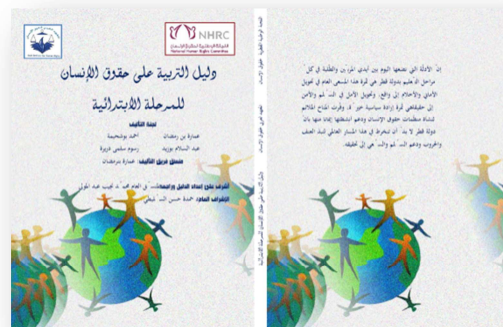
1- Establishing a national committee: According to The UN General Assembly resolution B/59/113 of 10 December 2004, which supports the revised Plan of Action on the first phase of the World Programme for human rights education (2005-2007), each country has to establish a National Human Rights Committee for Education, human rights that should include a broad coalition of governmental and non-governmental actors related to human rights, it will be responsible for developing and implementing a long-term comprehensive and sustainable plan and implement.

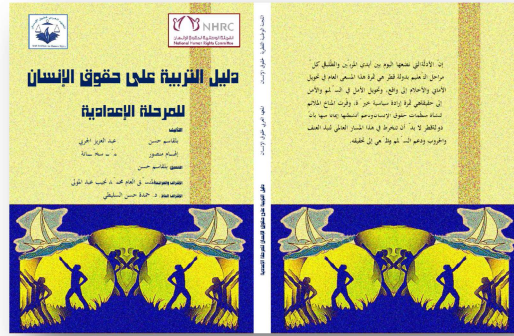
The National Human Rights Committee of Qatar has played this role in accordance with the Decree Law No. (17) of 2010, On the organization of the National Human Rights (NHRC): " To raise awareness on human rights and freedoms, to entrench the culture of human rights, and to consolidate human rights principles on both the intellectual and the practical levels. "

The Committee has already taken the national human rights initiative, and formed a coalition consisting of the Council of Ministers and of civil society organizations to draft a comprehensive national strategy for human rights; where the Committee coordinated its meeting with the bodies, implemented the business logistics and managed to put a comprehensive national strategy for human rights, and is currently awaiting approval from the Council of Ministers.

2- Conducting a baseline study/ needs assessment survey: multiple studies were conducted on the assessment of the needs of Qatar in the national plan for human rights. As mentioned before, the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) plays a key role as it is conducted in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia, a study on the assessment of the status of education in Qatar, it included several topics including the impact of the curriculum, textbooks and teaching methods on the awareness of the rights of girls and persons with disabilities and the relationship between child's creativity and curriculum ... etc.

The cooperation between the National Human Rights Committee and the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia yielded the preparation of "the handbook on human rights education at the primary, preparatory and high school".





The National Human Rights Committee has also worked on the integration of human rights into the school curriculum in Qatar and discussed it with the Ministry of Education as it is the entity in charge of the development of educational policy, planning programs, teacher training and developing educational materials. The desired goals are that the curricula derive its objectives from the handbook using the democratic method that based on participation among students and that all materials and textbooks are consistent with human rights values.

3- Identifying priorities and specifying the needy:

The national human rights bodies, such as The Qatar Foundation for the Protection of Women and Children, Qatar Foundation for Combating Human Trafficking, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and Qatar National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, directed programs to several categories:

- The public, through media campaigns and public invitations to attend seminars and lectures.
- Vulnerable groups, including children, women, persons with disabilities and workers.
- Police, prison officers, lawyers, judges, teachers, curriculum leaders, the Armed Forces and the staff of government and service agencies
- Schools, universities and businesses
- Civil society organizations and religious institutions

4 - Developing a Plan: All the data is ready to facilitate the development of a comprehensive plan once the draft strategy referred to is adopted.

D - Materials used to promote the culture of human rights in Qatar:

The training courses and information campaigns in Qatar as well as advertisements, standards for specific occupations or areas relevant to human rights aim at publicizing the provisions of international conventions on human rights to the society such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, The European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions ... etc.

In general, the information should be provided in a good way, it also should aim at learning the skills necessary for the target groups taking into account the measures necessary to ensure equality and equal opportunities and prevent prejudices that lead to discrimination in the exercise of the rights referred to in international conventions and promote understanding and tolerance.

As a result:

Qatar has completed the first phase that is related to putting a comprehensive national strategy; it has also completed the second phase that is related to the analysis of the current status of human rights education in the school system. This formed the basis for the development of a national plan for human rights education. Currently, work is on progress regarding the application of the third and fourth phases, which requires curriculum modification.