

Moroccan NGOs help combat illiteracy

Moroccan NGOs are struggling to help the country eradicate illiteracy. Lahcen Haddad, director of the Adros Project, which aims to raise literacy rates among young nursemaids, told Magharebia that the country needs help to achieve its goals. "Literacy affects all of us. We're doing good work in Morocco in this area, but we need to increase our efforts and all sectors of society need to get involved," he said.

Noureddine Hraiche, president of the Association of Development and Reform, also believes civil society should be more involved. His association tries to teach women living in shantytowns to read and write. "Morocco is one of 12 countries in the world where three quarters of the population are illiterate. Our association is trying to do its bit, even if it helps only in our local area," he explained to Magharebia.



Shantytown

Belmouden Saadia, a member of the same association, has tirelessly knocked on doors hoping to encourage girls to combat illiteracy. The aspiring pharmacist will teach a class of 22 girls at the Zirara School in Temara. Hafida Zaoui, a 12-year-old girl in the class, is determined to do something about her future. "I don't want to be ignorant for the rest of my life. I want to understand life. If I don't study, I'll remain illiterate," she declared defiantly.

Hayat Al Abdouni, a 15-year-old girl, is also optimistic. She stopped studying just after reaching age ten to look after her younger sister, but is now determined to make up for lost time with the help of the Association of Reform and Development. Older women are also seeking to change their everyday lives through literacy. El Hajja Tamou Saadine cannot wait for the new term of literacy classes to begin. "I enrolled in my course last year thanks to the Moroccan Association for the Protection of Rural Women (AMPFR). I've learned a lot. I won't give up until I can read and write well, like my children," she told Magharebia.

AMPFR President Malika Ben Mahi is proud of her association's achievements in running literacy and vocational training courses. "Armed with a slate, chalk and a small exercise book, women study very hard at our association. Teenagers and women in their 60s study side by side. The hardest workers receive gifts at the end of each school year to encourage them to keep going," she said. Zahia, a once illiterate woman, has seen her life turned around completely through Yacoub Al Mansour's Women and Action Association. She sees those around her in a different light and is no longer ashamed to mix with well-educated people. She is able to follow the news on television in Arabic with her children with ease and hold conversations about many different topics. She can see pride in the eyes of her family.



Chalk and a slate

The number of children being taught by NGOs rose from 153,218 in 2004 to 225,129 this year. The public sector has made a similar contribution, while the private sector has only taught 2,652 people. Women account for 79 per cent of people enrolled in literacy courses. NGOs that Magharebia spoke to feel the illiteracy problem should be overcome with an approach involving and empowering people at the local level. They believe every community must put together a literacy and prevention plan. Improving school enrolment and reducing dropout rates are also deemed to be necessary. NGOs believe a sustained effort lasting three or four years is needed to permanently vanquish the problem.

I COMPREHENSION (16 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Answer these questions. (3 pts)

- 1 Which social class is targeted by some of these associations?
- 2 Which equipment is used in those literacy classes?
- 3 How long will it take to eradicate this problem in Morocco, according to some organizations?

B Say if the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (3pts)

- 1 The government is working on its own to combat illiteracy.
- 2 Old people are also trying to change their lives through literacy circles.
- 3 The private sector has reached better results than the public sector in combating illiteracy.

C Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (3pts)

- 1 ambitious (para 3): 3 considered (para 6):
- 2 compensate (para4):

D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

- 1 it (para2): 3 she (para 5):
- 2 I (para3):

E Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (4pts)

- 1 We need to increase our efforts and all sectors of society need to get involved despite
- 2 Our association is trying to do its bit due to
- 3 BelmoudenSaadia, a member of the same association, has tirelessly knocked on doors so that
- 4 Zahiais able to follow the news on television in Arabic with her children with ease along with

II LANGUAGE (14 POINTS)

A Rewrite the following sentences as suggested. (3 pts)

- 1 We will complete our project in 2019.
By the year 20120, we
- 2 Jamal graduated from the Institute of Technology. Hestarted looking for a job some time later.
Before
- 3 The government is going to take measures to reintegrate street children into society.
Measures

B Fill in each blank with the correct phrasal verb. (3pts)

put up pick up make up look up let down

- 1 Don't believe what she says. She likes tostories.
- 2 It's difficult towith noise in big cities.
- 3 Your parents are your best support; they will never you

C Put the words between brackets into the correct form. (2 pts)

- 1 "We should put an end to the (destroy) of rain forests, " an environmentalist said.
- 2 To get a job in a multinational company, you must be well-qualified and very (energy)

D Put the verbs between brackets into the correct tense. (2 pts)

- 1 Moroccan authorities (to be) interested in developing the tourist industry for many years now. Last year 7.5 million tourists (to visit) Morocco. Another 8 million (probably / to come) next year. Government officials hope that by the year 2020 the number of tourists (to reach) 10 million.

E Fill each blank with the right relative pronoun. (2pt)

when who where why whose which whom

- 1 Unemployment is the reason many people leave the country.
- 2 The lady has just greeted me is a math teacher.

F Rewrite the following sentences using the words between brackets. (2pts)

- 1 Many countries still can't reduce unemployment in spite of their making big efforts. (**although**)
.....
- 2 The computer is an amazing means of entertainment in addition to its efficiency at work. (**moreover**)
.....

