

# Innovation , as the Engine for Social Change at Time of Conflict



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# What does “Innovation” in the context of Education and Social Change?

## Some thought provoking Questions:

- ❖ Is it a “luxury”, a “Need”, a “Right”?
- ❖ Does it implicitly target private school children or address under-privileged children as well?
- ❖ Does it imply particular learning techniques or is it beyond that?
- ❖ Is it restricted to scientific breakthrough, smart high-tech products and apps, or address behavioral change as well?
- ❖ Does it only happen in democratic countries and in safe environments?
- ❖ Is it about bringing solutions to some “social” challenges?

# What does “Social Change” imply in a wishful context?

- ❖ Social Change happens from within and not from the outside
- ❖ Social Change is value-based because it deals with society and human values
- ❖ Social Change is a communal phenomena
- ❖ Social Change implies a “positive” change, a change that brings better options and responds to the needs and aspirations of the society.

# What kind of Education are we talking about ?

For innovation in Education to occur, it is essential to reaffirm the 5 aligned principles behind Education that leads to social change:

- Equality of Access
- Quality of Education
- Relevance
- Society Engagement
- Advocacy at Policy level

# Connecting the Dots: Innovation & Social Change

- ❖ Innovation is a catalyst or a tool for social change
- ❖ Innovation addresses equality of access
- ❖ Innovation means relevance for ALL
- ❖ Innovation implies the engagement of the society
- ❖ Innovation is endorsed by the society

# INNOVATION & SOCIAL CHANGE AT TIME OF CONFLICT

The Case of Syria

# Innovation & Social Change at Time of Conflict: Is it possible?

- ❖ Innovation leading to Quality Education when 3 million children have no longer any access to Education
- ❖ Innovation leading to empower teachers to become community leaders and role models
- ❖ Innovation leading to peace building when violence, killing and intolerance feed everyday's people life
- ❖ Innovation leading to hope, resilience, and commitment to lifelong learning for a positive change and a better future



## ***SONBOLA Summer Camp (July 2014) – Slide Show***

**An exemplary approach towards social change through innovative learning**



# SONBOLA, an Educational Initiative addressed to Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon

Social Change is embedded in the knowledge and the skills children acquire. Through practice and nurturing, children's attitudes evolve to reflect a behavioral change, then a CHOICE

- ❖ Creativity at time of Conflict is a catalyst for positive thinking
- ❖ Citizenship Values through Art & Music workshops
- ❖ ABC Learning can be a lot of FUN!
- ❖ Science is at our hands “Bubble Soap” and “planting our school yard” projects
- ❖ The making of a Robot from recycling materials
- ❖ And much more...

# SONBOLA's Next Project: Science & Citizenship

1) “Robotic Program”: Learn how to make use of physics and math to program robots to do the following:

- ❖ Build new schools & hospitals
- ❖ Remove land mines & garbage
- ❖ Use solar & wind energies to produce electricity

2) Volunteer Science Club:

Syrian graduate students in Science from private universities provide once a week science hands-on experiments to Syrian refugee children.

# Revisiting the Role of Science Museums in the context of: Innovation & Social Change

- ❖ What measures the “Innovation” of Science Museums?
  - State of the Art edifice?
  - Number of production of new touring exhibitions?
  - Upgrade of content and permanent exhibitions?
  - Integration of the latest technologies and interactives?
  - Number of children/families visits reached?
  - Improved M&E to assess learning impact?
  - Best training for teachers and facilitators?

## Revisiting the Role of Science Museums in the context of: Innovation & Social Change - Cont

- ❖ What makes a Science Museum an institution that drives for social change?
  - Vision & Mission?
  - Commitment to Equality of Access?
  - Contextual/Relevant Content?
  - Partnership with public, private and NGO sectors?
  - Endorsement of Citizenship & Human Rights Values?
  - A Learning Institution through continuous assessment, revision of vision, and sharing best practices?
  - A powerful Lobby for Equality of Quality Learning?

# What could be the “Active” role that Science Museums can play at time of conflict?

- ❖ A source for positive thinking through creative, critical and innovative learning
- ❖ Focus on outreach programs in order to provide equal access to quality education to all children
- ❖ Focus on training the teachers to become community leaders?
- ❖ Engage families, communities, decision makers and children in workshops about best options for a better future
- ❖ Create an Award for best innovations for social change
- ❖ An agent for Peace Building and Human Rights

# Quality Education is the Right of Every Single Child

