



المجلس العربي للطفولة والتنمية  
Arab Council for Childhood and Development

# Children Participation

Empowerment and Protection – Sustainability and Development



**Abstract**

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## Abstract

The Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD), under the presidency of **HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz**, has issued a book, entitled *“Children Participation... Empowerment and Protection –Sustainability and Development”*, which was prepared and dedicated to ACCD by **Dr. Talat Mansour, Professor of Mental Health at Ain Shams University**. This book tackles the issue of children participation as one of the basic pillars of child rights, and one of the main topics adopted by ACCD’s strategy, according to the developmental rights based approach that qualifies children for the future and enhances building a community based on citizenship, democracy, social harmony, tolerance and acceptance of pluralism and diversity.

The issuance of this book is a continuation of ACCD’s interest in the issue of children participation, which has been addressed at length during the activities of the Fourth Arab Civil Society Forum for Children, held in Beirut in the year 2012.

This book aims at promoting the active participation of children so that to become key partners in the community, thus achieving the foundations of democracy and citizenship. ACCD adopts a broad concept for the meaning of citizenship, emphasizing equality, non-discrimination, developing capacity and the enabling environment.

The book, given in ten sections that include twenty-eight chapters, contains knowledge and experience based on global experiences and national expertise, in addition to research outcomes and creative models of children participation in a variety of fields, asserting in its entirety that children participation is a true approach to childhood and a right for children. In addition, the book is stressing the importance of empowerment approach in children participation within the strategies and efforts of children’s protection and development, with a view to sustainability in development and protection.

The introduction of the book indicates that despite the achievement made in the field of promoting children participation at all levels, there are still lots of difficulties that might disrupt or hinder the movement of children participation, reduce its effectiveness, or tackle it with

appeasement or in terms of prestige or formalism. Such problem lies in the culture of community that imposes limits of space and prospects of the availability for children participation in matters of significance to their lives, world, present and future. The book indicates that children participation is primarily a civilized and humanitarian shift for society, and a true standard and guarantee to ensure the quality of life and sustainable development in the community.

The first section includes concepts and principles of children participation, its determinants, objectives, expected outputs and problems. On the basis of this conceptual framework, the second section focuses on the elements of effective participation of children and its quality requirements, in the context of establishing a culture of respect for children's right to participation. This section continues with the issues and topics included in the third section, which focuses on the approach of empowerment in the effective and sustainable children participation. In addition, the third section provides experiences and methods of enabling learning and training, international and Arab models in children participation and forms of children empowerment, as well as preparing them for political participation, and the special interest in empowering children with skills to use "participatory tools "in the process of participation.

Section four deals with the areas of children participation; agencies and organizations of social upbringing for children, and children participation in family, school, institutions concerned with children and civil society organizations, with interest in children participation in media, asserting in all this on "participatory learning", "participatory media", and the right of children to participation in media. This section addresses the correlation between participation and citizenship, confirming that children participation is a citizenship education and culture in itself. This section also devotes a special chapter to inclusion as a strategic approach for real participation between children with disabilities and others in the context of achieving the best interests of the child as the highest goal of inclusion.

Children participation in knowledge and culture is the focus of section five in light of the orientations of the knowledge society and children participation in knowledge management, focusing on enabling children of participation skills of knowledge management and the investment of knowledge sources and media in favor of development. This section continues

to identify important areas to promote children participation in the cultural, artistic and recreational life, as well as in children's literature, with interest to provide practical applied models in these important areas of children participation, which, probably, do not receive the appropriate attention.

Section six presents models of initiatives, global experiences and case studies of children participation in rebuilding life in difficult circumstances, with a special emphasis on the approach of "child-to-child", against children participation in the construction of the meaning of life within "Reggio Emilia" approach for education in early childhood.

Section seven sheds lights on children's creations as powers of change and as partners in the process of development. This section examines children participation in the management of development projects and in decision-making and accounting process, as well as in the context of the diversity of forms and levels of children participation, with emphasis on participatory projects and activities and the characteristics and specifications that distinguish them for effective participation of children.

The highlights and problems of children participation in scientific research emerge as a main and distinguished pillar in the process of children participation, which is the focus of section eight. It includes two chapters on scientific and research affairs: children as effective researchers and researched, along with children participation in scientific research. In the context of this trend, section nine deals with the issues and problems of monitoring and evaluating children participation, and examines strategies and models of children empowerment on participation skills in scientific research, as well as monitoring and evaluating the process of children participation. The last two sections focus on sustainability as a future orientation for children participation in the management of life in the community, and to develop promising Arab models for children participation.

**The full Arabic version of “Children Participation ... Empowerment and Protection - Sustainability and Development” book, can be downloaded from ACCD portal: [www.arabccd.org](http://www.arabccd.org)**