

Exploratory Pedagogy in Kreuzberg: Critically Examining Gender Socialization

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Abstract

This human rights project focuses on exploring pedagogical practices that can be applied through gender-awareness as a part of human rights. The workshop was designed for children ages 6 - 11 years old with five sessions using experiential, cooperative, and participatory learning. Through a series of games, questions, and team-building activities, the workshop was designed to help generate a conversation surrounding gender roles and expectations in socialization with the participants involved. The theme of the workshop incorporated an imaginary scenario where aliens from a distant galaxy wanted to visit Earth and needed information from the participant on what it's like to live on Earth. It was implemented in cooperation and coordination with a Kindertreff in the district of Kreuzberg, Berlin. The session topics introduced the general premise and explored the topics of identity; places to live and go; activities to do; and intended that the participants created a final group presentation to the aliens on the groups experiences and information they found. During the course of the program, we decided to end the program after four sessions due to the lack of sustained interest. There are four main observations and reflections as lessons learned from the experience in designing and implementing this workshop. These include the importance of consistent participation, creating age-appropriate activities, the lack of inclusivity of the program, and that my position as a sports trainer may have biased the group make-up. These observations can be used in the design and implementation of gender-awareness and human rights programs as a pedagogical tool for children.