

Our Trip to the Orphanage

Nadine
Zoufekar
John

& accompanied by Ms. Judith

Why did we choose this topic?

- We chose this topic because we wanted to know more about orphaned children and how they are treated .
- Our research question was: ***How are orphaned children treated?***

What did we do ? Why?

- We went to the orphanage and wanted to ask the director , the supervisors and the children some questions...but we could only talk to the supervisors...
- We wanted to take pictures but we were not allowed...
- We observed and asked the supervisors several questions...

Our observations...



Our observations

- Our Trip to the Orphanage (Maytam)
- John: Before going, we were excited and curious (hashoureen) to meet the children and find out how they were living. We were scared because it was the first time that we were going to meet them and we were also nervous (mitwatreen) because we were going to interview the director (il moudira). We brought for them cake, balloons and petefour.
- Zozo: First, we drove through Bibnin and Arkaf until we arrived to the orphanage in Beit Al Hosh which was about 30 minutes from our school.
- Nadine: When we arrived a woman welcomed us and introduced us to the person responsible (masoul) to answer our questions and take us around the orphanage.
- John: Ms. Samia had told the director that we wanted to interview her, the supervisors, and the children. The director on the phone said okay to Ms. Samia. But when we asked where the director was the other woman told us that she had a meeting in Beirut and had left.
- Zozo: This made us sad because we wanted to meet the director...
- Nadine: This responsible person took us around the 4 buildings where 250 children live and study. We noticed all the buildings were very clean. All the doors were locked (m3fouleen). We saw the children sitting and watching TV and one read us a poem about their orphanage and the rest of the children were playing with each other.

Our observations (continued)

- They took us to 4 rooms where the children can learn to cut hair (halak), learn about electricity, aluminum and sewing (khiyata). They showed us the kitchen where they eat but from outside and we saw the huge theatre where they do all the celebrations (ihtifalat) and parties.
- Zozo: They also showed us where the children sleep and where they study.
- Nadine: I was surprised that they had a library which was a bit smaller than our library.
- John: Then we asked them if we could interview the children but they told us NO because the children would be too shy and they would not answer our questions.
- Zozo: Then we told them that we would ask the children only about their names and what games they liked. But they still said NO.
- John: We felt disappointed ((khab amalana) because they didn't let us meet and talk to the children. I wondered if the supervisors were worried (khayfeen) that we would have a bad impression (fikra mish mniha) about their organization. We felt everyone was very nice and polite (Muhazabeen) and especially the children we saw; who wished us good morning when we entered .
- Nadine: We think we can help by giving these children some donations (tabarouat) like money, clothes, take them on a trip, play with them....They told us that when they will have a party, they will invite us ...

OUR INTERVIEW RESULTS WITH THE SUPERVISORS

✦ **Why did you build the orphanage?**

The orphanage was built in 1917 to help children in need.

✦ **Where did you get the money from?**

From donations (Tabarouat). Some pay money, others give food or clothes.

★ HAVE PEOPLE COME TO ADOPT (YATABANI) THE CHILDREN?

We have sponsors (Koufala3) who pay for the children's school, food and clothes. Also many volunteers and even doctors come to help.

★ WHY DID YOU COME TO WORK WITH ORPHANED CHILDREN?

I like to take care of children who need help.

★WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS YOU FACE IN THE ORPHANAGE?

We face problems. It takes time for the children to adapt (yitaouwadou) to the orphanage and we have problems with the teachers in the schools because we want to make sure that the children are treated equally.

★WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO WITH THE CHILDREN?

They have many activities such as picnics, play station, computers and music.

The Children's Questionnaire

- The supervisors answered our questions for the children from their point of view and feelings.
- We feel that the children would have answered differently if we had asked them.

Our Conclusions

- We felt sad that we could not listen to the children's point of view about their life in the orphanage.
- Because we only heard the supervisors' answers, we felt we got half the information .
- After our trip to the orphanage, we hope that some teachers and students at our school would be interested in helping people in need.