BASR’s Drama Therapist talked about BASR’s experience in using Drama Therapy for people with Disabilities at the “EUROMEDINCULTURE (s) ART FORUM” in Tunisia.

BASR launched its drama therapy program for children and adults with disabilities, including those with intellectual disabilities who are the most marginalized in society, in 2008. The program focuses on using theatre and performing arts to challenge stigma and discrimination towards disability and on promoting positive social change. Through Drama Therapy, BASR’s drama therapist, Abeer Masou, helps people with disabilities express themselves more freely by taking on a new voice, a new character or a new form of movement in the safe environment of a drama therapy session. She had written, directed and produced different drama sketches / plays that children with and without disabilities performed in public tackling child rights issues, in addition to several performances tackling disability issues and the rights of people with disabilities that were successfully performed in public by adults with intellectual disabilities on different occasions.
The program also focuses on promoting children’s self confidence, cooperation and team work, behavior modification, enhancing language / vocabulary, expressive and cognitive abilities, self help skills, motor skills as well as adapting the curriculum to the children’s needs and levels focusing on major academic subjects. She also helps the teachers design specific teaching materials.

The process of participating in drama activities is empowering for people with disabilities and helps them find their own voice and be heard by others, as they develop a deeper understanding of themselves, their talents and potentials.

“The Drama therapy sessions at BASR focus on the inner psychological status of the beneficiary. For instance, if a child with disability has little confidence when making new friends or taking part in activities at school, through Drama therapy sessions we create a place where new behaviors and emotions can be explored and later transferred to the beneficiary’s everyday life”, said Abeer Masou.

As a result of Abeer’s strenuous efforts, the clients with intellectual disabilities of Al-Basma Vocational Training Center performed a show produced by Abeer titled “Al Hub Al Haqiqi” = “True Love” on stage in front of almost 1500 attendees of the national advocacy cultural event titled “Kol Falas6in Tasta7eq” = “All Palestine Deserves” in support of the rights of persons with disabilities at Ramallah Cultural Palace, organized by Diakonia-NAD on 12/12/2011.
Al Basma Center - "El Hob El Haqiqy"