Talamid.ma : هذا الملف تم تحميله من موقع

Groupe scolaire Inisse

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Rural Education Faces Challenges In Morocco

By Sarah Touahri



Moroccan rural schools are suffering from classroom congestion and lack of facilities, National Education Minister Ahmed Akhchichine admitted to the Chamber of Councillors on Tuesday, November 23rd.

MPs questioned the minister on the state of education in the Moroccan countryside, drawing particular attention to overcrowding and a severe shortage of equipment. The ruling Istiqlal party criticised the practice of placing different year pupils in the same classes and teaching ***them*** at the same time.

Hamid, a fifth- and sixth-year primary school teacher, faces this problem. He has to deliver lessons to one group while the others are completing exercises and vice versa. "My classroom is very overcrowded. Three pupils have to share tables made for two. Those who arrive late even have to sit on the floor. It's sickening. What's more, ***it*** doesn't have a door we can close, or windows," he said bitterly. He told Magharebia that while he is determined to fulfil his duty to help these children receive a good education, the reality can sometimes be too much for teachers, pupils and parents to handle.

Girls in particular are missing school because of a lack of toilets. Ahmed Mechtioui told Magharebia that his brother stopped his 11-year-old daughter from going to school because of this problem. "On top of that, it was really bad for her in the winter when it rained … the school roof was leaking," ***he*** said.

Salwa, who has been teaching in rural schools for more than six years, emphasised that the difficulties with providing equipment, packed classrooms and combined classes affect the quality of teaching. "It's obvious that a teacher is not going to be able to deliver lessons of the same quality to pupils from different year groups studying in the same class. Even if you make a huge effort, the situation remains tough. Sometimes, even a class with pupils from a single year group can have more than fifty students," she said.

Akhchichine admitted to MPs that the situation remains depressing due to years of underdevelopment. "We're dealing with a backlog which dates back several decades. It's obvious that good teaching requires a certain number of conditions. But this isn't just the government's responsibility. Civil society and local authorities must work with us on this," the minister said. Still, he underlined that considerable efforts have been made over recent years to improve conditions in rural schools. Classes with more than 45 pupils constituted 2.1% of all classes in 2008, and dropped to 1.7% in 2009, Akhchichine noted. The ministry hopes to create some 1,700 primary school classrooms in rural areas between 2009 and 2012.

The Ministry of Education is keen to fix "the whole school infrastructure in rural areas, to overcome the problem of self-governing classes scattered around the villages," he said, promising that the difficulties will be progressively resolved over the next ten years.

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I COMPREHENSION (16 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Complete the table with appropriate information from the text. (3 pts)

Cause	Effect
1 A student arrives late to Hamid's classes.	a ……
2 …….....	b Salwa thinks this problem affects the quality of teaching.
…….....	
3 The ministry hopes to create some 1,700 primary schools in rural areas.	c ……
	…….....

B Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (2 pts)

1 The ruling Istiqlal party took the initiative of placing students from different levels in the same classes.

……

2 This phenomenon is a few years old. ……..……..……

……

C Answer these questions. (3 pts)

1 Who was questioned on the state of education in the Moroccan countryside?

……

……

2 Why was it really bad for the 11-year-old daughter to go to school in wet weather?

……

……

3 How long will it take to find a solution to these problems, according to Akhchichine?

……

……

D Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

1 angrily (para 3) ……

2 clear (para 5) ……

3 necessitates (para 6) ……

E What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

1 ***them*** (para 2) ……

2 ***it*** (para 3) ……

3 ***he*** (para 4) ……

F Complete the following sentences. (2 pts)

1 Hamid is decided to do his duty to help these children have good schooling even though ……..……..

……

2 Girls in particular are missing school since ……

……

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II LANGUAGE (14 POINTS)

A ***Rewrite these sentences by choosing an appropriate modal and putting the verb in the correct form. (4 pts)***

needn't should must can't may

1 There's no food left – I'm sure they ate it all.
They ……...

2 Perhaps a faulty electrical connection caused the explosion.
The explosion ……...

3 I'm sorry but I didn't have time to write a letter to her.
I ……...

4 She walked past without saying 'Hello'.
She ……...

B ***Fill in each blank in these sentences with the most appropriate verb to form collocations. (3 pts)***

rose make take poke sank pull

1 Did you ..... notes in the class?
2 We often ..... fun of Hicham because he's bald.
3 That's not true. I just wanted to ..... your leg.
4 My heart ..... when I saw how much work there was left.
5 Student's usually ..... fun at Samir's bizarre hairstyle.
6 Her spirits ..... as she heard the good news.

C ***Rewrite the following sentences using the connectors between brackets. (4 pts)***

1 I always keep fruit in the fridge so as to keep insects off it. (***so that***)
……
2 In spite of his injury, Ricardo will play in Saturday's match. (***in spite of***)
……
3 They like to do business over the phone. They meet from time to time. (***along with***)
……
4 We've got a few minutes to wait for the train. So, let's have a cup of coffee. (***as***)
……

D ***Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)***

1 My uncle (offer) ……. me a present last night but I (not / open) ……. yet.
2 Najib Sidqi (get) ……. his degree in marketing before he starting work at a bank. Now, he (be) ……. the manager of a bank agency.

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III WRITING (10 POINTS)

Studying in the countryside is difficult due to the lack of facilities and the poor infrastructure. However, the situation is better in a big city like Casablanca. Write an essay in which you list the benefits of studying in a city. Give some of the problems that students face, and try to suggest some solutions.

(Approximately 200 words)

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