**Project-based Learning (PBL) as an Enabling Tool for all Students**

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All of us aspire for happiness, success and self-realization - and the exploitation of our abilities and talents to the fullest. However, many of us face difficulties that impede the possibility of full self-realization and the exploration of strengths and action through them. Empowerment as a cornerstone of the school strengthens its role as an important advocate and agent for change, and the building of individuals and communities.

Empowerment is achieved by revealing the strengths of the student and enhancing their confidence in their abilities and their active participation in the educational process: to be a producer of knowledge and not just a consumer, to be a critic rather than a recipient, to prepare themselves for leadership and influence, not for stagnation and apathy.

The lecture will highlight a unique experience that began three years ago in several schools in East Jerusalem, using project-based learning as a tool for empowerment of female students. Project-based learning was used to initiate a systematic research process based on a complex and genuine question or problem connected to their environment and community, develop a project that expresses their voice and choice, and crowns them with products that are presented to an audience or distributed to members of their community. The students become active learners and participants in their community.