

Migrations /Evaluation / Review 2002

Migrations - funded by Department for International Development

Description of the project

The last phase of the Migrations project took place in four schools Eardley primary school in Streatham, Gainsborough Primary School, Eastlea Community School and Lister Community School in Newham. Akademi worked closely with Newham Refugee Education team and with Newham EAZ. A training / INSET afternoon was set up for teachers prior to the intensive weeks taking place. **Additional information to be added here about the project.**

Aims

Objectives

Make up of the groups

School	Number Participants	Age
Eardley Primary School – Streatham	60	7-9
Gainsborough Primary School	32	7-8
Lister Community School	30	13-14
Eastlea Community School	25	13-14

Total number of participants: 147

Total number attending the performance: 87

Number benefiting from the project and the performance indirectly (other young people in the school, families of the participants, the local community and the wider community.

Learning Experience / Outcomes

The project had a positive impact on all the participants who took part. They gave a high level of commitment towards the work and the final performance. The teachers involved with each of the groups were particularly committed and became fully involved in the project. They gave a lot of support during the staging of the performance and were on hand to help out backstage.

Confidence was seen to increase amongst participants through their involvement in the project. Participants learned to work together as a group, to trust themselves and each other more. By the end of the week as well as gaining skills, it was apparent that the group had overcome most of their apprehensions and that the project; especially for the secondary school pupils had opened up career opportunities in the arts.

Pupils gained -

- Learnt about three new art forms.
- Poetry, writing skills, the quality of written work improved throughout the week.
- Dance skills

- Knowledge and understanding of refugee issues.
- Cultural diversity and what it means to 'them'.
- A performance experience in a professional venue, which led to, increased self-esteem and confidence and also to an understanding of what it is like to rehearse and do a technique run on a professional stage.
- An insight into their own potential and what they can achieve.
- That learning new skills can be enjoyable and fun
- Working with others

Personal and social development

- Boosted Self esteem
- Those who were easily distracted became more focused.
- Trust grew between pupils and the artists throughout the week.
- Confidence
- Belief in their ability to learn new skills.

Recommendations / Issues

- For these types of projects schools need to do more preparation work with the students or arrangements need to be made for the artists to go in and do some short sessions with the children before the project starts.
- More time was needed during the training afternoon and suggestions have been made to set up a full day in future.
- More information was needed on the make up of each group to allow the artists to prepare material, which addressed all the groups learning needs.
- Introductory / taster sessions with artists before the project starts.
- Preparation packs to help the teachers prepare their students.
- Rehearsal time scheduled in after the intensive week has finished so that any production issues can be sorted out.

Comments taken from the evaluation forms and general feedback received

The effect of the performance was like a kaleidoscope of identities, experiences, stories and ideas. Really uplifting and life – enhancing. (Anne Seeley, School Development Officer Newham)

‘It was obvious to those attending that by using themes that are in themselves of particular concern to our young people, the plight of refugees, and the development of personal identity, you had engaged them and helped them to think of drama dance and music as ways to personal expression.’(Rev Brian Lewis)

‘Am amazing impact, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are so much more confident’ (Hayley Cruickshank, Gainsborough Primary School Newham)

Comments from Participants

The project boosted my confidence.

I never thought we could work together to make the piece work.