

Chapter 1

“YOU HAVE RIGHTS CHILDREN” PROJECT AS AN ACTIVE LEARNING-BASED TEACHING APPROACH

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Introduction

The Child Rights Convention was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989. The Convention sets forth the States parties with the responsibility to ensure that the principles and provisions of the Convention are widely acquired by children, besides adults, via appropriate and effective means.

The States will fulfill this obligation by disseminating it through divergent settings such as family, school, and media. The teaching of the principles and rights stated in the Convention is also of great importance to shape the individual and the society (Freeman, 2011, p. 6; Dost, 2016, p. 539). In this regard, the implementation of human and child rights will only be possible if the aforementioned rights are noticed and learnt by children during childhood. Because, suppositionally, child rights constitute the basis of human rights. In this respect, the individuals who know and defend their rights as well as who take care of the rights of others will suffice with such trainings. For this purpose, in mind, taking place in the scope of TUBITAK 4004 Nature and Science Schools, the 113B032 enumerated and “You have rights children” project was implemented with the participation of 100 students composed of 7th graders that pursue their education at secondary schools located in the city center of Isparta. The project provides priority for students who are successful in academic, social, cultural and artistic ways, but with poor economic condition.

The project, which was arranged with an interdisciplinary approach base, was executed under the partnership of SDU academics, seven secondary schools affiliated to Isparta National Education Directorate and DSI Isparta Regional. Academics as Project trainers, within the scope of the project, have formed the theoretical information presented in the seminars and teachers have shaped active learning methods and practices to be benefitted in transferring information. The project was applied by selecting eight rights secured in the contract through using active learning techniques. In the project, the theoretical information about the subject was given, and especially the active learning-based teaching techniques were applied. In the project, raising the awareness on child rights, strengthening the weak position of children, and those who know their rights and who support have the right to others

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