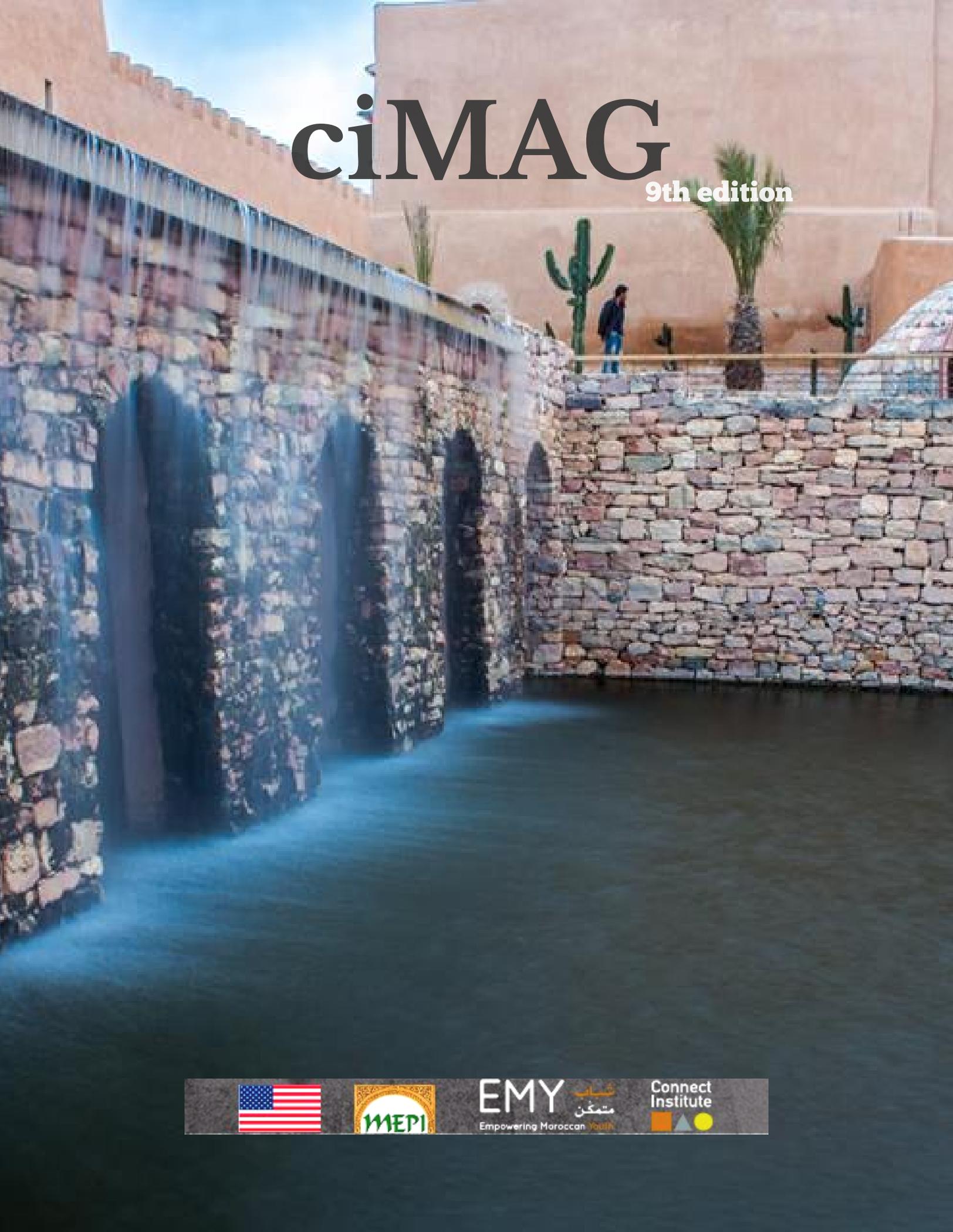


ciMAG

9th edition



EMY **شباب
متعلمين**
Empowering Moroccan Youth

Connect
Institute

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Team

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- Fatima Zahra El Hafa
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- Oumaima Fathi
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“Ain Zarka”

Tiznit is a city situated in the south of the country, 90 km from Agadir. It is bordered to the north by Ait Baha, Guelmime in the south, Taroudant in the east and the Atlantic Ocean in the west. It's known for its silver jewelry, mint, daggers and sabres. One of the gates to the old town of Tiznit leads to a large cemetery with a very important white Marabout's tomb. From there you can easily get to the famous “Blue source” commonly known as “Ain Zarka”, the spring water that supplies the city's gardens with water. It is said that a holy woman, called Lalla Zninia, accompanied by her dog was worn down by thirst during her travel. So her dog started digging the ground until water squirted out from it. And that was the start of Tiznit city founded later on, in 1881, by the sultan Moulay Hassan I.



Picture by:
Sauphiane Idlcadi

What Is The *Purpose* Of *Education*?



It is taken for granted that education is mandatory to progress, to succeed in life and to make the world a prominent place for all humankind. The purpose of education today though, has a hefty misconception when it is only linked to the ability of stocking knowledge, getting higher grades and hunting a good job. In fact, the educational systems worldwide have paralyzed students, their intellectual and moral capacities since an early age. Students are no longer supposed to learn for the sake of learning itself, but to pass semesters and to get high grades in spite of their personal aspirations, which are quite distinct and different. "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education", said Martin Luther King, Jr, an influential personality that marked the life of millions of people all over the world. Hence, the

quote sheds light on the purpose of education, a highly important topic to discuss specifically in this digital age.

MLK Jr talked about the importance of critical thinking and the continuous ability to weigh the evidence ages ago. Besides, he had spoken about the character of each person and its enormous role alongside intelligence, for a successful and effective education. In our time, internet is an incredible blessing only when we use what it offers wisely and effectively. E-learning can provide all types of information that humans need to become educated, critical thinkers and mentally-independents. Also, it offers the tools to be a creative being, a person who make and build things. "The children should be making things. The children should be writing computer programs. They should be learning by doing.

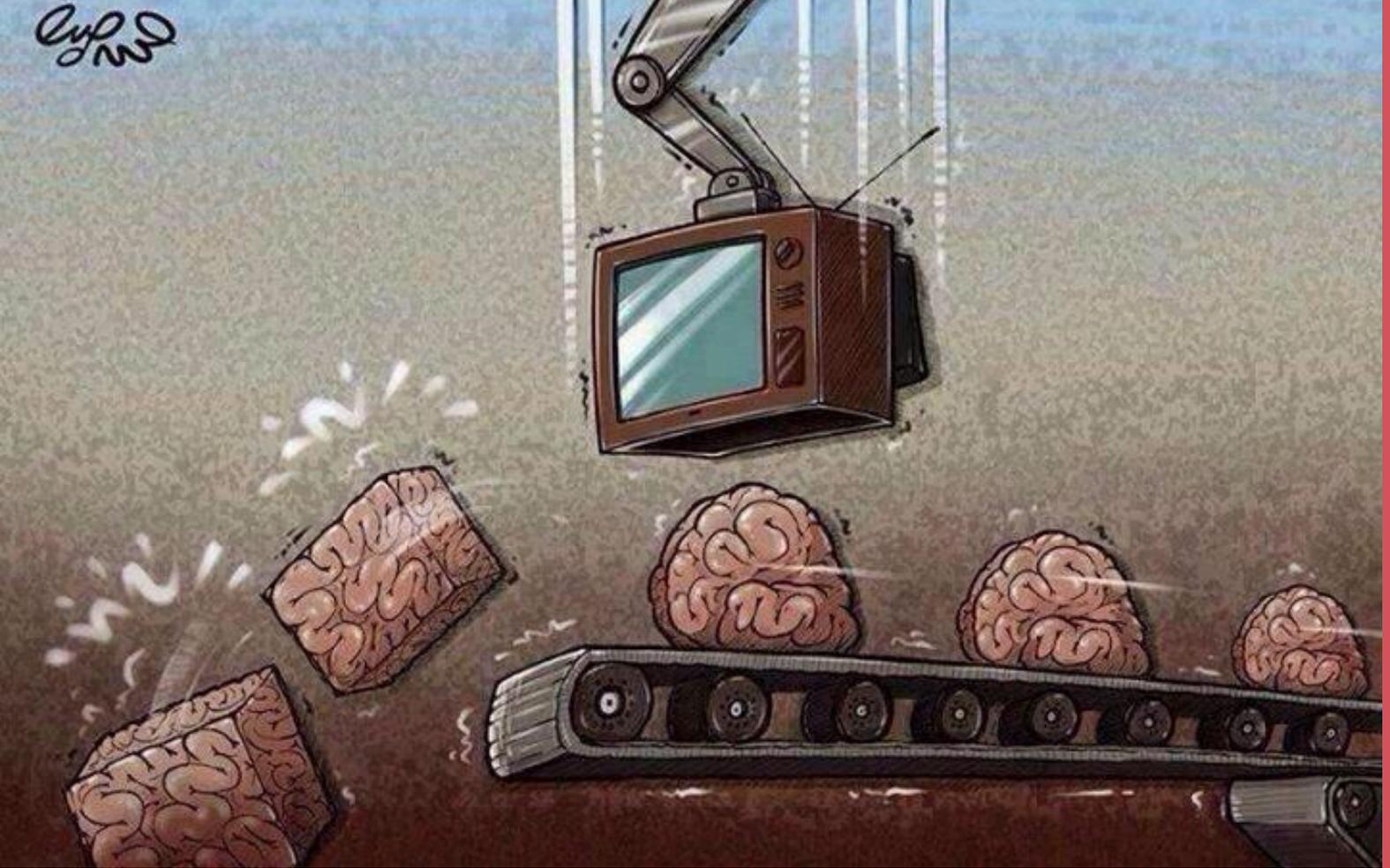
The thing is not to learn excel or such programs, it is to learn to learn." Stated the professor Nicholas Negroponte, at OAS conference in 2006.

Therefore, students, nowadays, should be self-aware and ready to put in question what they think they know in order to focus on the big picture of education's purpose not only a degree or a diploma, I mean, what a person seeks in life and how education could serve his or her aspirations and goals.



Oumaima Fathi

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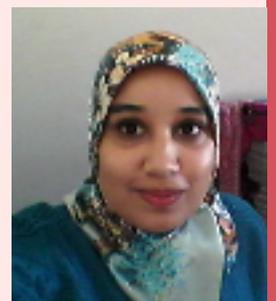
Why media?

It is always nice to watch a movie or a show either alone, or with company. When I choose to do that however, I try as much as I can to avoid Arab channels in general and Moroccan ones in particular. Why? Well, simply because they rarely have something interesting in them. Especially on occasions like during Ramadan when it resembles a marathon of useless comedy movies and shows. It is like this month comes with an instruction manual which says "Dear producers, I am your chance to bombard local and national channels with stupid TV shows and movies. Go for it!"

This whole situation made me think: What is the role of media in general? Aside from reporting news, what should we as individuals, obtain from it?

Personally, the reason why I hate those kinds of movies and TV shows is because they make me feel stupid. I don't gain anything useful from them. Well, unless you count the non-thought provoking entertainment I enjoy as a gain. I think we can all agree on the fact that media plays a big part in the problems and challenges we are facing in today's world, not to forget the frightening rise of mediocrity and the lack of public awareness. So, media's aim should be pushing the public

to think, question, and reflect on and about everything, whether it may be politics, science, religion, or any other topic. I do believe that through provoking such thoughts and debates, media can ultimately lead to public engagement in important issues which is exactly what our society and the world both need.



**Fatima Zahra
El Hafa**



We are humans

God created earth, the sea, the mountains, nature, animals. And he created us, human beings. We are all different from each other; there are black people, white people, southerners, northerners, Africans, Asians and so on. We speak using different and multiple languages, we have different customs, different religions. So that makes life exciting and motivates us to coexist with each other, to be curious and to discover the beauty of our planet.

Despite this diversity, some people are racists, they don't treat those who are different than them as humans. They have this criterion; if you're not with us then our interactions should be within limits. Racism is being offensive to those who are not from the same roots as you, who talk in another language, who are poorer than you. Do you know why we don't have peace? Well, it's simply because we cannot accept difference. We feel hurt by difference whether it may be in color, in beliefs or any kind of difference. All of this is what produces ignorance, violence, and wars. Racism is not instinctive. Every child is born with a love and peace instinct: no racism and no discrimination. It's after frequenting parents, school, friends, and media that children build those dirty thoughts about racism, thoughts that we are still paying for until this day.



**Ismail
L'chheb**



La presse écrite: quel avenir ?

La technologie moderne a toujours été un sujet de controverse. Les objets digitaux commencent à envahir nos vies, et s'encrent de plus en plus dans nos habitudes. La diffusion de l'information n'a pas échappé à l'avènement des technologies. Au pays de l'oncle Sam, les chiffres affirment un constat qui nécessite une réflexion: La CNN a perdu 19% de son audience depuis 2009. Les journaux ont licencié le tiers de leurs collaborateurs en 25 ans. Le nombre d'américains qui ne s'informent que par Twitter et Facebook a augmenté de 63% en deux ans. Est ce le début d'une rupture ?

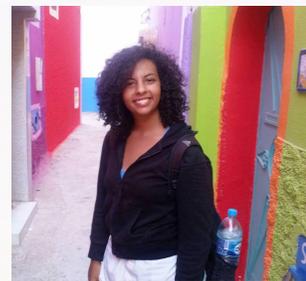
Certes, les réseaux sociaux présentent plusieurs avantages en termes de diffusion de l'information. Cette dernière est devenue plus accessible, mise à jour d'une façon instantanée, et consultable partout et n'importe quand. Si on parlait auparavant d'une abondance d'informations, maintenant grâce aux réseaux sociaux, nous pouvons parler de sur abondance de l'information. Cependant, peuvent-ils substituer la presse écrite ou encore la presse télévisée ?

Bien que, internet a créé des nouveaux usages auxquels la presse traditionnelle ne peut pas répondre, les informations qu'il véhicule sont, dans la plupart des temps, superficielles, rarement analysées, et n'incitent pas la réflexion du lecteur. Toutefois, la presse traditionnelle d'aujourd'hui doit obligatoirement revoir sa manière de diffuser l'information. Que nous l'acceptons ou pas, le plaisir de lire évolue et les organes de la presse doivent impérativement s'adapter à cette évolution pour ne pas disparaître.



Rachida
Akdaich

The trapped fish



Jihan

Nini

Why would a fish refuse to live in an aquarium even though it will be safe in it? What if I told you that I was that fish, and that I was raised to be a prisoner of my own boundaries, or more precisely, boundaries I thought existed, and that was my aquarium.

Like many people I was dying to get a high salary, have a luxurious life and lots of friends. But I didn't realize that in exchange, I was giving up on myself, my identity and my life. I was bound to and by my age. If I am young, I am supposed to be looking for a second half, but where is the first one? Didn't I lose it while trying and craving to please society and its expectations?

That was me months ago. Today, I am a new person. My change wasn't instant. It came gradually. I was blinded by satisfaction, and only fools can be satisfied at that stage. I had to face rejections and deceptions to realize how absurd my life was. I decided to read more and sink in the sea of knowledge; it led me to a brand new universe, one where I have to react, to think, to discover and to see. Now and as I am walking against the flow, I have to be strong and tough to fight laziness, mediocrity, and the old me. I do it by looking at the path I went through and by asking myself if I want to come back to my stupid superficial life. Now I see the world as a place to be discovered and viewed to ultimately realize and distinguish the wrong and the right.

Abilities

vs

Status

Last week I was sitting with a teacher of mine in a cafe and we were discussing linguistic outlooks. He asked me about the next step I was planning to take after my graduation. I told him confidently that I had already applied for a master's degree in translation. Instead of asking me whether I'm well prepared to pass the Entry exam, He asked me: "Do you have somebody there?" I was surprised by his answer; I asked him why I had to have someone, then he started uncovering the miserable condition of labor markets. "Wassata" (nepotism), as a form of favoritism shown to family members without regard to merit, devastates society. An example of nepotism is the appointment of family members to civil service, often at the expense of a more qualified person. Competence here becomes worthless. People are more concerned with diplomas and corruption occurs during the process of getting it and after getting it.

Mohamed Chtatou, a Moroccan political analyst, said once that "In Morocco, it is not about what you know but who you know". The quotation proves that individuals are not recognized for their knowledge, experience and contribution but for their tribal identity: to which big and influential family they belong. Nepotism, of course, is not just about dodging accountability. But also in such a scenario that is realized every day; need a job? Sure, what's your last



name? Being from the "right" family is an advantage itself and it can save you from troubles. Most of the time those families are very special as a result of their wealth, power, proximity to decision makers, or religious influence.

"Wassata" in Morocco is in all sectors and as repercussions on employees have a low personal accountability simply because if they are responsible they will not accept such corruption instead they will take it if they deserve it. Additionally, there is a low productivity due to the incompetent employees. The latter must be morally poor. Other repercussions like trust and creativity are damaged. Concerning diploma holders, they become frustrated and seek for unsuitable jobs, which will for sure create a chaos.

Nevertheless, there has been some movements stand against corruption and nepotism. Picking one of them in which Mr A. Hamouchi, the general director of national

security in Morocco, declares that "competence will qualify candidates to wear the police uniform."

All in all, the issue of nepotism lowers Morocco to middle ages and backs, generations will weakly be educated and morally deformed. When the "who" matters rather than what he/she has in labor market, there will be no possible way for development and advancement.



Bilal Kasaoui

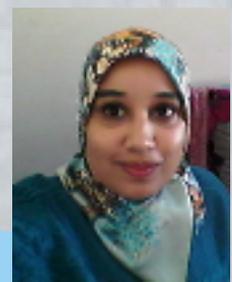


The 5th edition of AGORA

On Saturday the 16th of July, Connect Institute held its event, AGORA 5, in its new premises.

Tens of people came to the event: family members of the participants, their friends, and other important figures like Mr. Ahmed Herzenni, ex-president of the Human Rights Council and a great man whose speech grabbed the audience's attention by its sincerity. Some of his advices to youth were to: "Ask yourself, every day and every second: what attracts and interests me most?" and "If you want to change the world, you have to start with yourself; you have to start with changing your lifestyle". The institute's participants also testified to their improvements and achievements ranging from gaining writing skills to public speaking and teamwork spirit. Several of them who are part of the Connect Institute's theater group, ciPLAY, performed a play that succeeded at captivating the audience. Additionally, the event contained different types of musical shows: Melhoun, Amazigh music, ciBAND, and an extra surprise performance done by two Connect Institute members along with Philip Holzapfel, a political advisor of the EU delegation, who revealed that: "It is no secret that the project we created with you is the best among all the projects we are financing. All this talent, all these achievements in so little time give us enormous satisfaction. "

Thanks to the staff of Connect Institute, its participants, and all those who believe and support the institute, AGORA 5 is now another added element that testifies to Connect Institute 'success. And the best is yet to come!



Fatima Zahra El Hafa

