

# THE NEW HEROES

## STUDENT VIDEO HANDOUT

### Baby Academies in Egypt featuring Dina Abdul Wahab

“When you serve children with special needs, you raise the level and quality of education for all children.”

– Dr. Hossam Badrawi, in charge of education for the Ruling Party, Egypt

#### SUMMARY:

In Egypt, Dina Abdul Wahab, mother of a child with Down’s syndrome, has developed private schools to serve special needs children and prepare them for mainstream education. This is a population that was previously shunned in Egypt -- not served by public schools, not welcome in society. Her efforts have inspired government reforms to better meet the needs of all children.

This is another story dealing with “cultural taboos.” What taboo is being discussed in this video story about Egypt?

1. How many students are in a typical classroom in Cairo, Egypt?
2. What are the main reasons Egyptian schools ignore students with special needs?
3. Dina mentions that once people are identified as being “rights-holders” they must be supported. What does she mean by “rights-holders?”
4. In what ways are children “rights-holders?”
5. What is the difference between rehabilitation and integration when it comes to education?
6. When a hotline opened for parents of special needs children, what supports the idea that there is a huge need in Egypt for information by parents?
7. Dina sees herself as an “entrepreneur.” What does she mean? She may well have encouraged the government of Egypt to improve education for special needs students in all of Egypt by her innovative school. What is the role of the entrepreneur compared to that of the government in solving problems?