

### **Supplementary school activities - the parent's way of getting involved**

**Bouakaz, Laid and Persson, Sven.** Malmö University, Sweden

This article presents the accounts of the supplementary school which children attended alongside their regular school education in a multiethnic school area in the town of Malmö in southern part of Sweden. A supplementary school or school activities of educational character arranged by a group of Arabic speaking parents is described, including the logic of these activities and the means and methods involved. The major aims of the supplementary school activities were to support their children and help them in their schoolwork, to protect their cultural heritage and language. They also want to prevent their children from being influenced by “the culture of the street”, meaning preventing them from drawn into drug abuse and criminality and ending up failing in school. For the mothers and fathers involved in it, the supplementary school activities represented a sort of symbolic capital in which various other forms of capital were invested, especially social and cultural capital (Bourdieu, 1986 and Coleman, 1988). Although there is a dearth of literature on supplementary schools both in Sweden and abroad, several aspects of schools of this sort have been noted in the literature. Most of the studies conducted this far have dealt with the students and with those who manage and guide such activities. In this article we will be concerned, not with assessing the effects of the supplementary school activities as a whole, but with the reasons of establishing such activity by examining the difficulties encountered by the parents in protecting their culture and language and while helping their children with their schoolwork. The supplementary school is seen as an opportunity for the children to obtain help from others who could provide them the help they need. The article considers how and to what extent the parents are involved in their children's education in these various ways.