



With the PYP enhancements, comes an emphasis on the concept of **agency**. A concept that invites us to revisit our practices so students have **more voice and choice** in their learning and own it!

Students **choose, explore, try out new ideas, make mistakes and learn to overcome failure, set goals and carry them through, communicate effectively, and learn to reflect continuously.**

Lina Mouchantaf, Director Pre-School & Lower Elementary at Ain Aar talks about "**Student Agency**":

Agency is fundamental to learning and learners. It enables students to become active agents in their own learning by having voice and choice to develop the needed skills and attitudes that transcend time.

The world is constantly changing! **Taking Initiative, Innovation, Creativity, Entrepreneurship, being able to find problems and creative solutions are some of the areas to address in our educational systems.** It is our role as educators; to **provide students with opportunities for agency.** Agency cannot be given nor taken; it can only be encouraged or discouraged. Educators need to facilitate and provide opportunities that enable students to choose, act, and own their learning.

Students will **learn through activities that are meaningful and relevant to them, driven by their interests and often self-initiated – age appropriate – with guidance from adults around them. Making mistakes, learning to revise them, and overcoming the feeling of failure are crucial to developing resilience as our children engage in their learning.**

An "excellent" learner-no mistakes/ high grades- might create a misconception. During my school journey, I was an "A student" but it turned out that I was living a myth. The myth of being a "super student" who doesn't and shouldn't do mistakes! My first encounter with failure was my first year at the university. My school didn't equip me with what I needed to succeed in an environment different from what I knew. I had the high grades all my life, but what about other skills and attitudes? The courage to

take a risk, make a mistake and learn from it, make choices and assume responsibility for the outcomes... Agency places a huge responsibility on educators and educational systems; to believe that our children are capable learners, who will strive, take risks, develop resilience, and become happy and well-rounded individuals, if we ourselves are willing to go down that road next to them!